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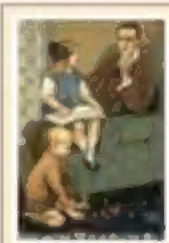
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Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of the world's No. 1 magazine for hobbyists who share a collective passion for all types of toy soldiers and historical figures. This edition is punctuated by features commemorating the 80th anniversary of World War II's D-Day.



Dan Nance delves into historical details of the Allied airborne and amphibious invasion of German-occupied Normandy on 6 June, 1944. He also recounts how he built a dynamic diorama inspired by American GIs' assault on Omaha Beach under heavy enemy fire as depicted in the movies *The Longest Day* (1962) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).

Andy C. Neilson of King & Country Ltd. shares examples of how it has recreated the Normandy campaign and the liberation of occupied France in the past. He also shares an exclusive sneak peek at future releases planned to mark the anniversary.

Guideline Publications' Managing Editor David Grummitt, who serves as editor of both *Military Modelcraft International* and *Fantasy Figures International* magazines, is always a great help to me behind the scenes, but this time he went way above and beyond. Besides contributing his usual 'Model Figures' reviews of new kits, David shares an interesting interview with illustrator Graham Turner, who is well known for his Osprey Publishing artwork. In addition, David shows how he built and painted a resin 1/30-scale World War II US Sherman tank model kit newly produced by Campaign Miniatures, part of the Hudson & Allen Studio arm of W. Britain Model Figures.

Stephen Dance, a past president of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) and its archivist, pays tribute to two fellow members who have passed away. They

include Brian Hornick, who served on both the National Committee and as editor of *The Bulletin* journal. He also created public displays of toy soldiers and made television appearances to help promote our hobby. In addition, Stephen profiles the late John Farrell, a Brit who served in both the UK and US armed forces, and the writer highlights the recent BMSS auction of the veteran's collection.

Mick Ford salutes the late Bill Cranston, his long-time friend and the notable UK maker of 54mm painted metal toy soldier items covering wide-ranging themes to the delight of many a collector. Hobbyist Michael Mason chronicles how he built a castle façade backdrop for toy soldiers recreating a Scottish military tattoo.

Contributing Editor George Phillips has penned a historical feature about how the Battle of Teutoburg Forest altered the course of Roman expansion into Germania and left an indelible mark on the Ancient World. He also recaps highlights from March's Spring Show in London.

American Matthew Murphy, proprietor of the Boston area's Hobby Bunker shop, reports on March's West Coaster Toy Soldier Show held at a new venue in California. Now he is eagerly looking ahead to staging his second Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show on Sunday, 22 September.

As usual, there is a whole lot more in store in this edition, including lots of news, reviews and how-to tips, so please start turning the pages and enjoy. And, as always, happy collecting!

Stuart

All the best,
Stuart A. Hessney
Editor

P.S: On a personal note, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of Canada's Ontario Model Soldier Society for so graciously hosting my wife Sally and I at their monthly meeting in Toronto on 14 April. I gave a talk titled 'Professor Pestana's Bermudiana, Land of Imagination' about one of my favourite makers and his writings.

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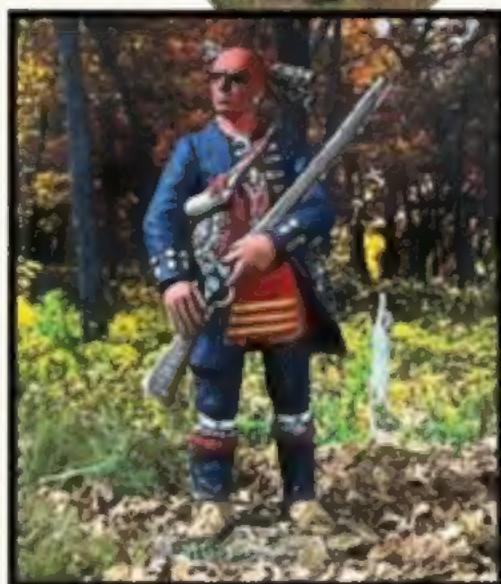
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Noticeboard

The latest news from across the hobby

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or alternatively write in to: Guideline Publications 6 Kensworth Gate, 200-204 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 3HS.

King & Country's Neilson Planning Trip to Australia

By Stuart A. Hessney

Andy C. Neilson, cofounder and creative director of King & Country Ltd., is planning a summertime trip from Hong Kong to Australia to visit with toy soldier collectors for the second year in a row.

Andy is scheduled to appear at the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney from Monday to Thursday, 15-18 July, according to proprietor Sven de Braekeleir. The final day will be capped by a Collectors' Dinner, a yearly tradition that dates back before the coronavirus pandemic disrupted travel. Sven noted, "The year there will be no new event figure, but for collectors who were unable to attend the previous



K&C's Andy C. Neilson shows off a Vietnam War US Marine Corps M48A3 Patton tank during his 2023 visit to the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney, Australia.



'The Kokoda Digger' (ref. KCKT001) produced by K&C.

dinner we can still offer the 'Kokoda Digger' with exclusive Australian box art." Made by K&C, the 1/30-scale World War II figure (ref. KCKT001) depicts a typical Aussie Digger dressed in jungle green and wearing his slouch hat at an angle. The maker's detailed sculpting and painting conveys how the fighting man seems weary but is still defiant and determined. This special collectable retails for \$70 AUD.

A ticket for the 2024 dinner featuring Andy costs \$70 without the metal figure and \$95 with one. Reservations can be made online via www.toysoldiers.com.au.

Andy will be available at the shop to chat with collectors during his stay. In addition, the special event will once again include a diorama competition.

Sven explained, "Participation is free and multiple entries can be entered, but the first one needs to include K&C figures

only."

He added, "There is no restriction in the size or type of displays, but they need to be brought to the store the week before the event. Please bear in mind that we will have to move these to the venue as well, so make sure to include a way for us to safely pack and transport your dioramas. Also, please contact us to let us know how many dioramas you are planning to enter so we can accommodate with enough display tables."

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ACE Miniatures Recruits 3D-Printed Figures Range

By George Phillips

ACE Miniatures is a leading UK supplier of high-quality white metal castings for hobbyists. Under the direction of proprietor George Johnson, MBE, the Manchester-based company imports 54mm and 75mm products from Eastern Europe.

ACE also produces its own 54mm range based on sculpts by Alan Ball. George is also able to offer museum-quality paint finishes for all the castings he provides.

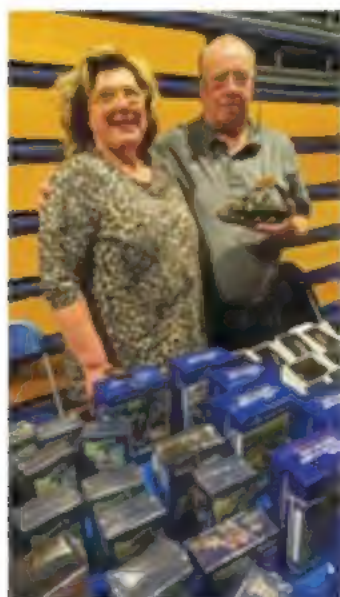
During the Spring Show in London staged by Guideline Publications on Saturday, 23 March, George introduced me to some exciting new additions to his stocklist:

3D-printed figures produced in a resin-like material which cover a broad range of historical periods. Produced by Speira Miniatures of Sweden, the figures boast absolutely incredible detail and they represent a wide range of toy soldier collecting themes.

ACE Miniatures sells these fully assembled figures for £14 or you can order a connoisseur-style painted version for £70.



Speira Miniatures figures of an American frontier trapper, Confederate infantryman and Vietnam War US rifleman shown from the left are now available from UK-based ACE Miniatures. (Photo by Andy Whittaker)



Tina and Robin from Maison Militaire showcase a W. Britain World War II US Sherman tank at the March London show. (Photo by Andy Whittaker)

UK Dealer Maison Militaire Offers the W. Britain Range

By George Phillips

Following the recent decision by W. Britain Model Figures to cut ties with distributor Bachmann Europe plc and consolidate its worldwide operations, the maker's products are now available from a broader range of stockists. This is in line with the vision of W. Britain President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen to ensure that dealers have a more complete and up-to-date inventory of his brand's products on their shelves.

Among the beneficiaries of this new arrangement is Maison Militaire (www.maisonmilitaire.com), a UK-based supplier of top-end collectable metal figures operated by husband-and-wife team Robin Kelly and Tina Packwood. While staffing their tables at the London Spring Show organised by Guideline Publications on Saturday, 23 March, they were pleased to share the news that their customers can expect a steady supply of the latest new releases from W. Britain.

Battles Through History Event Is Being Planned

By Stuart A. Hessney

Battles Through History, a new multi-period living history show, has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 28-29 September, at the South of England Showground in Ardingly.

The organisers plan to make it possible for attendees to enjoy time travel into the past by witnessing combat displays, drills and skirmishes from across the ages at the Sussex venue's arena and around the grounds. Visitors can engage with re-enactors representing everything from Ancient Greece to modern warfare in their encampments. Medieval falconers will be on hand in the arena.

Spokeswoman Sara Hughes enthused, "There will be museum-quality exhibitors, hands-on history for adults and children to get involved with, live music and entertainment, and many, many battles!"

Helicopters are expected to land during the course of the show. Military vehicles will be on display for inspection. In addition, visitors can explore a 'Vintage Village' with food stands and traders in all things of all eras.

Model makers will demonstrate their hobbies and wargamers will refight battles in miniature. The organisers are also expecting authors of military books to be on hand. Sara said, "It will be a weekend of historical immersion and entertainment for all."

For further details, including ticket prices and information about participating, please visit the website at www.battlesthroughhistory.co.uk



Showground map subject to change for September's Battles Through History weekend event in Sussex.

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Imperial Miniatures Adds New Figures and Range

By Stuart A. Hessney

Antony Spencer, proprietor of UK-based Imperial Miniatures Ltd., has been enjoying a busy 2024 thus far thanks to adding both new figures and a new range to his offerings.

New sculpts of British and French generals, a hussar, a cuirassier, and a zouave officer and soldier have been added to his Little Wars Revisited range of 54mm wargaming figures.

Imperial has also purchased the 1897 Miniatures range of World War I figures sculpted by David Hall. Unfortunately, he passed away toward the end of 2023, so his family was hoping that someone would take on the range.

Antony said, "I loved the figures when I saw the photographs of those in Chris Bartlett's SoldierPac collection and I wanted to ensure that they continued to be available to collectors."

Antony anticipates that the 1897 Miniatures range will be available on his website (www.imperialminiatures.co.uk) by the end of June.

Imperial is also today's home of other well-known brands, including The Dorset Model Soldier Company, All the Queen's Men Toy Soldiers and GNM Miniatures.



Zouaves are in the works by Antony Spencer.



A British general has been added to the ranks of the Little Wars Revisited range available from Imperial Miniatures.



Imperial Miniatures' offerings include a World War I German soldier doing bayonet practice.

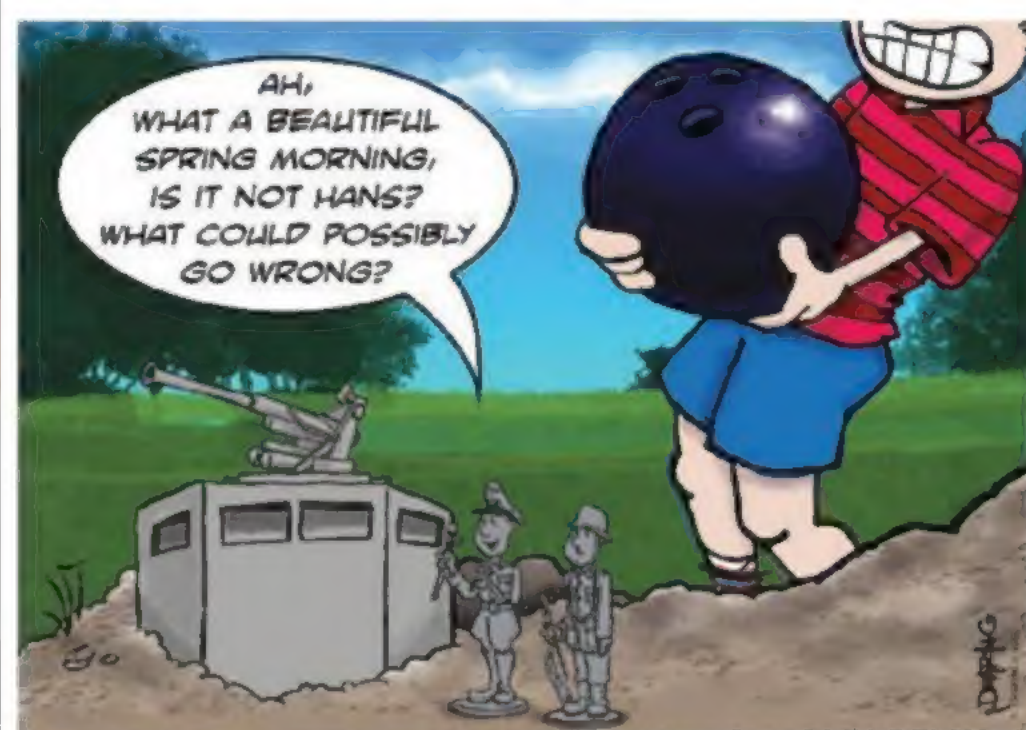
New Midlands Show Plans Are Cancelled

By Stuart A. Hessney

The New Midlands Toy Soldier, Fantasy and Wargaming Show that had been scheduled for Sunday, 8 September, has been cancelled.

As reported in *TSC&HF* issue 114, this magazine's parent company Guideline Publications had planned to partner with the original Midlands show's founder Patrick Adams, proprietor of The British Toy Soldier Company, to sponsor the new UK event in Stafford. The cancellation stems from Patrick passing away on 11 February.

Cartoon by Doug Dearth

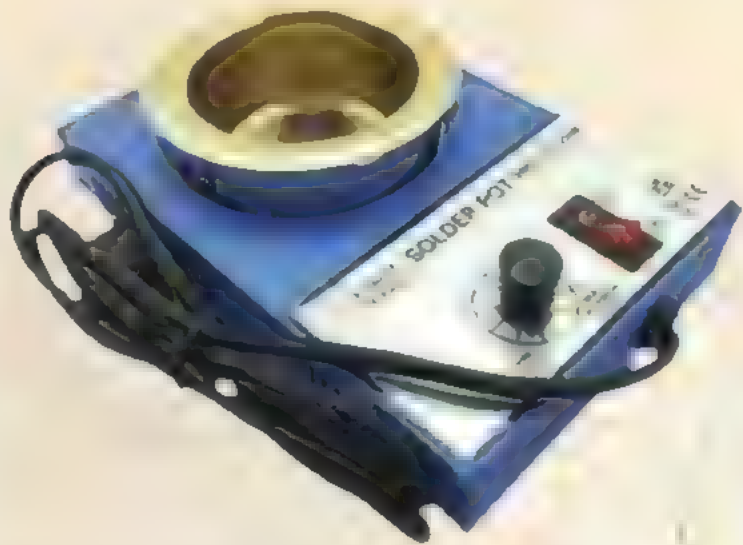


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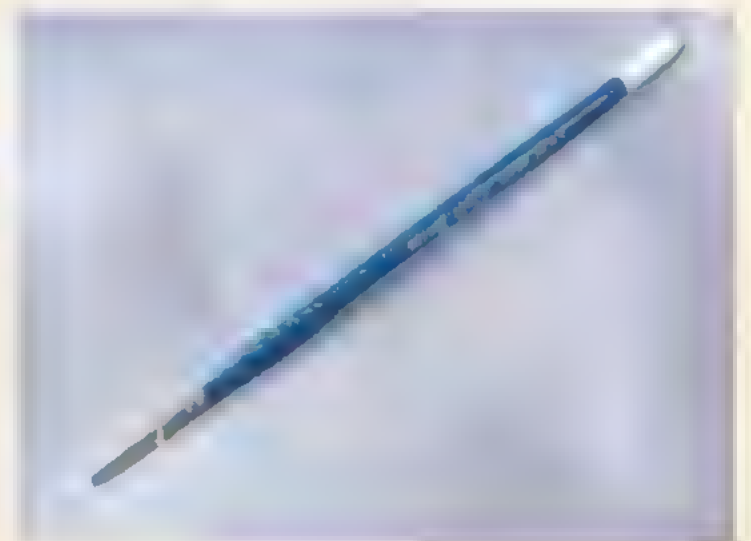
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New Releases

Our top-shelf team delivers news of new painted metal figures arriving on dealers' and collectors' shelves.



The new figures of the Princess Royal and a drum horse lead a contingent from the Blues and Royals on parade.

King & Country Ltd.

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

A new batch of 1/30 scale collectables unveiled by King & Country Ltd. recreates everything from the pomp and circumstance of ceremonial pageantry to life in the brand's Hong Kong hometown and Apache Indians on the warpath in the USA's Old West.

Ceremonial Pageantry

A lifelike mounted and saluting figure of 'The Princess Royal, Colonel of the Blues and Royals' (ref. CE107) highlights the latest additions to K&C's ceremonial collection. Like her late mother Queen Elizabeth I before her, Princess Anne loves horses and she is an accomplished equestrian. In fact, she was the first senior member of the royal family to compete in the Olympic

Games. She was awarded a gold medal and two silver medals at the European Eventing Championships in 1971 and 1975.

Princess Anne's royal duties include serving as colonel of the Blues and Royals, the British Army's second most senior regiment until its amalgamation with its senior partner, the Life Guards, to form the Household Cavalry. The Blues and Royals and the Life Guards maintain

their traditions as separate squadrons within the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. Priced at \$135 US, the striking matt-finished figure depicts the Princess Royal in dress uniform as she appears during special occasions such as Trooping the Colour. Also known as the Sovereign's Birthday Parade, its next display of ceremonial pageantry is scheduled to fete King Charles III on Saturday, 15 June, at Horse

Guards Parade in London. On a related note, K&C has trotted out a splendid figure of 'The Blues and Royals Drum Horse Horatius' (ref. CE097) that costs \$139. Pairs of large Shire or Clydesdale horses named after mythical figures traditionally represent both the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals, and they carry heavy silver drums as part of Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry. It appears that the toy soldier

maker might have exercised some artistic license because actually horses named Apollo, Atlas, Juno and Perseus were in service as of 2023. When it comes to authenticity, this drummer is modelled with a red plume on his helmet and he wears its strap under his chin versus how the Life Guards wear them under the lower lip. The new rider also wears the dark blue tunic of the Blues and Royals, white breeches and black jackboots.

A trio of Coldstream Guards priced at \$55 apiece portray company markers who take up positions on Horse Guards Parade before the Household Division's five infantry regiments and cavalry regiment arrive for Trooping the Colour. The markers denote each company's assigned position for their drills, inspection and final march past the monarch. K&C's figures include a 'Marching Lance Sergeant Company Marker' (ref. CE105). His rank is exclusive to the five regiments of Foot Guards, it's equivalent to a



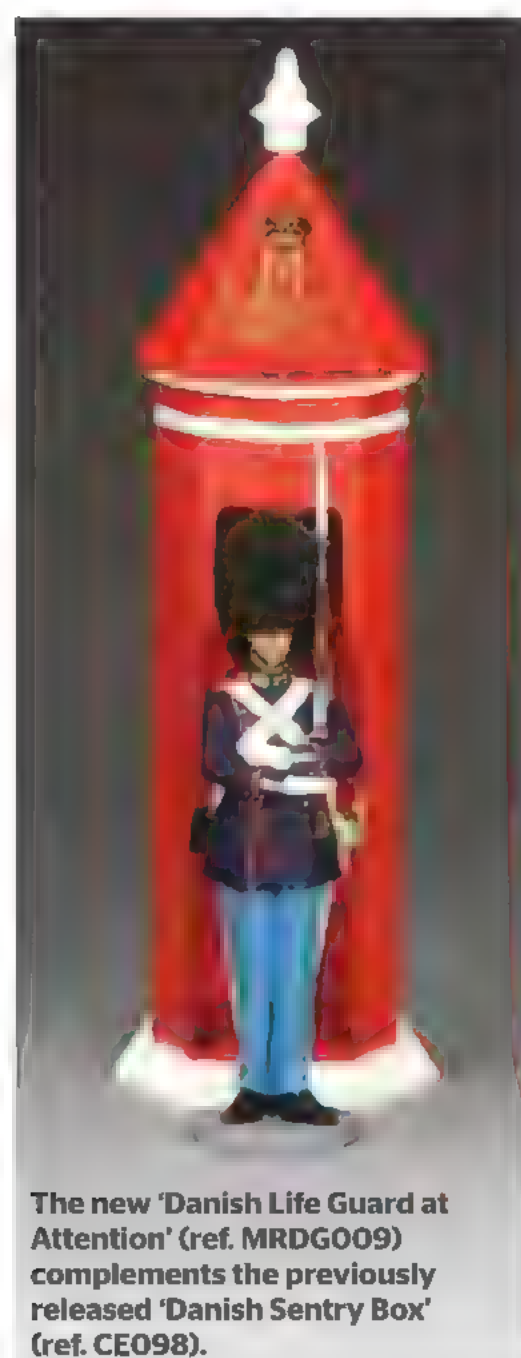
The Princess Royal, Colonel of the Blues and Royals' (ref. CE107).



The Blues and Royals Drum Horse Horatius' (ref. CE097).



Coldstream Guards include a 'Marching Company Marker Corporal' (ref. CD116), the 'Marching Lance Sergeant Company Marker' (ref. CE105) and an 'At Attention Danish Life Guard' (ref. MRDG009).



The new 'Danish Life Guard at Attention' (ref. MRDG009) complements the previously released 'Danish Sentry Box' (ref. CE098).

regular Army corporal and it's signified by three white chevrons on the upper right arm of his scarlet tunic. He carries a Union Jack over his right shoulder. His fellow NCOs include an 'At Attention Company Marker Corporal' (ref. CD106) holding a scarlet pennant on his right side and a 'Marching Company Marker Corporal' (ref. CD116) carrying a scarlet pennant on his right shoulder.

Danish Life Guard

The affection that K&C cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson has for Copenhagen is underscored by a new

'Danish Life Guard at Attention' (ref. MRDG009) offered for \$45. Royal Life Guards like him form a mechanised infantry regiment of the Danish Army and they provide a ceremonial Guard Company for King Frederik X's Amalienborg Palace in the capital city.

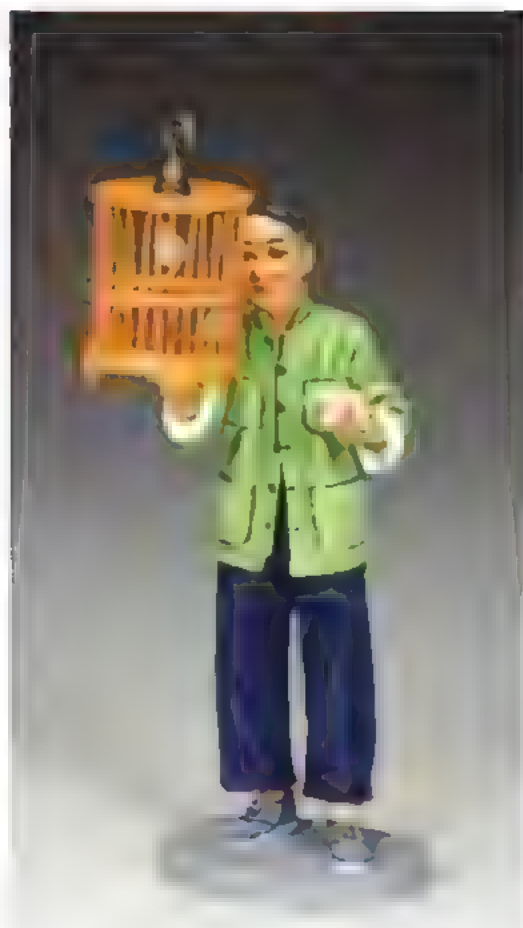
Andy noted, "Our latest guardsman is adopting the peculiarly Danish method of holding his M1 rifle and bayonet with folded arms." The figure is equipped with a traditional infantry sabre and wears a bearskin hat, white cross belts, a dark blue tunic and light blue trousers

with white stripes. His red sword knot signifies that he is a member of the 1st Guard Company. This figure is meant to go with K&C's previously released red, nine sided, relatively tall and distinctive 'Danish Sentry Box' (ref. CE098).

Hong Kong Collectables

K&C has added five new releases to its 'Hong Kong All Our Yesterdays' range recreating life in the 1960s and 1970s

'The Bird Collector' (ref. HKY007) costs \$52 and it was inspired by how residents of densely populated Hong Kong take their pets out for



'The Bird Collector'
(ref. HKY007).

walks in much the same way that dog owners do elsewhere around the world. The Chinese figure holds a cup of tea in one hand and a birdcage in the other.

"Early each morning and every evening toward sunset you will still see men and women taking their pet songbirds to the nearest park or green area so their feathered friends can enjoy some fresh air and good company," Andy explained. "With Hong Kong's very limited spaces, keeping a small pet bird is still a popular pastime."

A \$29 set of two 'Typical Hong Kong Trolleys' (ref. HKY016), painted green and blue, recreates hand-pushed metal trolleys that came into vogue following World



A bird collector and workers with typical Hong Kong trolleys enliven a street scene.



The new set of 'Typical Hong Kong Trolleys'
(ref. HKY016).

War II and continue to be an everyday sight. Andy said, "Due to their compact size and durability, they are perfect for navigating and transporting small to medium sized

loads of anything and everything through the congested streets and narrow passageways of this amazing city."

Their usefulness is underscored in new Chinese

sets titled 'The Vegetable Coolie and Cart' (ref. HKY017) and 'The Delivery Coolie and Cart' (ref. HKY019) that are priced at \$69 apiece. Another fellow is depicted taking a rest before his next task in a \$65



'The Vegetable Coolie and Cart'
(ref. HKY017).



'The Delivery Coolie and Cart' (ref. HKY019).



'The Waiting Coolie and Cart'
(ref. HKY020).



Four new Apache warriors animate a scenic setting.

set called 'The Waiting Coolie and Cart' (ref. HKYO20).

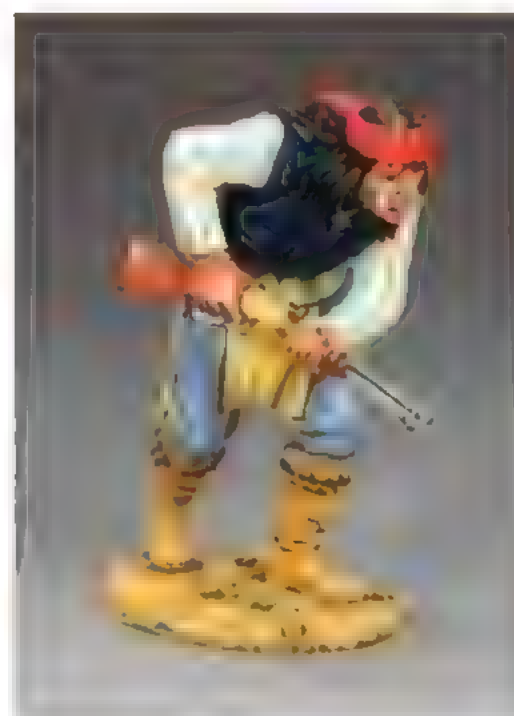
Apache Warriors

'The Real West' range has been joined by a quartet of figures in warpaint sold singly for \$55 that portray Apache Indian warriors in action during the nineteenth century's American Indian Wars. Numerous bands of these Southern Athabaskan language speaking peoples lived in the USA's southern

Great Plains and Northern Mexico. The Apache tribes fought Spanish and Mexican invaders for centuries as well as tribal rivals such as the even more formidable Comanches.

The Apache proved to be skilful strategists and fierce warriors when pitted against the US Army. Their most famous war leaders included Chief Victorio and Geronimo. The final defeat of an Apache band took place when Geronimo's group of only 30 to 50 men, women and children were compelled to surrender by 5,000 US troops on 4 September 1886 at Skeleton Canyon in Arizona. Both they and the Chiricahua Apache scouts who had helped track them down were sent into military confinement at Fort Pickens in Florida at first and later on at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

K&C's tribute to long haired and tenacious Apache adversaries are posed standing firing a carbine (ref. TRW187), crouching holding a Winchester rifle (ref. TRW188), kneeling holding a carbine



'Crouching Apache with Winchester' (ref. TRW188).



'Kneeling Apache with Carbine' (ref. TRW189).

'Standing Apache with Carbine' (ref. TRW187).

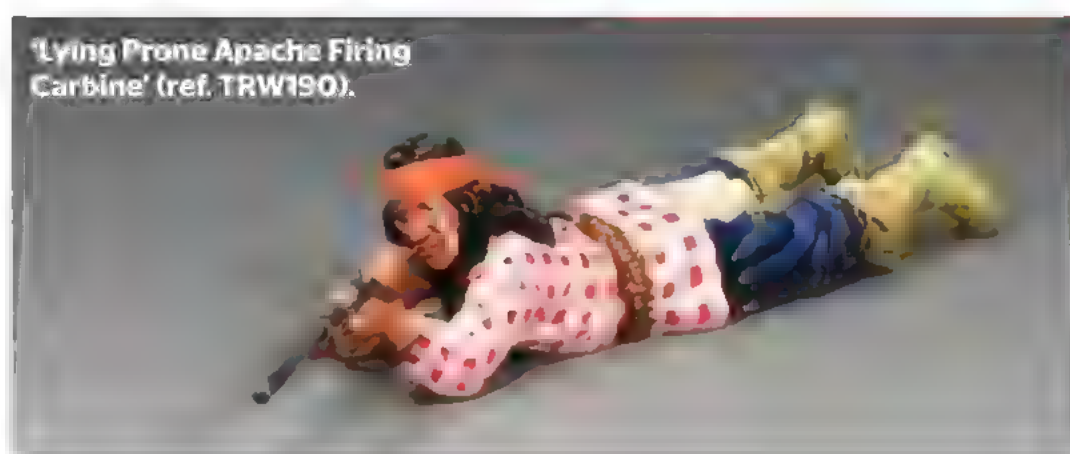


(ref. TRW189) and lying prone firing a carbine (ref. TRW190). Nicely varied sculpted detailing and painting enhance these lively and colourful characterisations.

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'Lying Prone Apache Firing Carbine' (ref. TRW190).





White Tower Miniatures

American Wild West Indians

Reviewed by George Phillips

The American Wild West remains a popular collecting theme for hobbyists, and both large and smaller-scale manufacturers continue to release new items.

Among them is UK-based White Tower Miniatures, an artisan toy soldier business owned and operated by Matthew Thair. In addition to producing 54mm white metal castings and painted figures, he is also well known in plastics collecting circles, and has penned a number of significant pieces for the UK's *Plastic Warrior* magazine. Matthew's recent releases

include terrific new sets depicting Plains Indians bundled up for wintry weather and on the move across the grassy prairie. The first item is identified as the 'Plains Indian Travois' and the set has a pony dragging the heavily loaded A-frame structure (shown farthest to the right in the group on the move in a photograph accompanying this review). This piece is priced at £25 for the casting and £36 for the hand painted versions with a choice of a gloss or matt finish.

The 'Travois 2 Wounded' (top

middle) portrays an injured warrior in a red blanket being transported behind a spotted pony. The casting for this nicely posed piece is priced at £32 and the assembled and painted model is available for £46.

The new releases also include two laden pack horses (bottom right and top left) both of which are either £18 for the casting or £28 painted. A dog travois - yes, dogs could also be pressed into service pulling them - adds yet more variety to this White Tower range. The canine set (bottom middle) also costs £18 for the casting and £28 painted.

The final item, listed as 'Travois 4 Deer Hunter', depicts an Indian walking alongside a pony pulling a travois bearing his dead buck, weapons and other items. This set is priced at £32 for the casting and £46 painted.

War Party Afoot

Six new figures on foot make up a mean looking Indian war party. Rather than assign them product codes, Matthew has allocated each figure an anglicised Indian name. They are 'Black Eagle' standing firing a rifle, 'Standing Bear' armed with revolver, 'Standing Elk' wearing a feathered war bonnet and firing a rifle, 'White Bear' firing a bow, 'Tall as Grass' kneeling firing a rifle, and 'War Pony' armed with tomahawk and shield.

If you'd like to add any of these guys to your collection, each costs £7 as castings and £16 painted.

'Standing Bear', 'War Pony', 'Tall as Grass', 'Standing Elk', 'Black Eagle' and 'White Bear' are shown from the left.



CONTACT

White Tower Miniatures

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SCALE 1:30-1:32

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Thomas Gunn Miniatures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

UK based Thomas Gunn Miniatures (TGM) has unveiled a cornucopia of new 1/30-scale releases to reinforce two of its most popular ranges: Ancient Rome and World War II. As usual, the figures feature fine matt painting and shading. Warplanes are taking wing too.



Praetorian Guard

Seven freshly minted figures portray the Praetorian Guard. The elite unit originated as bodyguards for Roman generals during the Republic before evolving into personal bodyguards and intelligence agents for the emperors.

I only have a photo of a striking 'Praetorian Imaginifer' (ref. ROM173A) at the time of this writing. He wears a silver mask and holds a standard bearing an unspecified emperor's image to remind men who they are fighting for. Guardsmen sold singly are offered in three different poses with a choice between either a 'Gold Pattern Shield' (A) or a 'Silver Pattern Shield' (B). For example, the 'Praetorian Launching Pilum' is available as either ref. ROM170A or ref. ROM171A, respectively. The same options apply to Praetorians

shown 'Thrusting Pilum' (ref. ROM171) and 'Defending with Pilum' (ref. ROM172).

Tragic Female Flier

The World War II British female figures of an Air Auxiliary Transport (ATA) pilot and two members of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) that I spotlighted last time in *TSC&HF* issue 116 have been joined by a sculpture of 'ATA Amy Johnson' (ref. RAFO06B). She gained fame before the war due to her exploits such as flying solo from Britain to Australia in 1930. After the war erupted, the company Johnson was working for was taken over by the Air Ministry, so she joined the ATA to ferry Royal Air Force aircraft in 1940.

While flying an Airspeed Oxford in terrible weather

conditions on 5 January 1941, the 37-year-old Johnson reportedly went off course, ran out of fuel, bailed out and the plane crashed into the Thames Estuary near Herne Bay. A passing convoy saw her parachute descend and she was seen alive in the water calling for help. At the time, there was a heavy sea, a strong tide, snow was falling and it was bitterly cold. Lieutenant Commander Walter Fletcher, who captained HMS *Haslemere*, diverted his ship to attempt a rescue. The crew threw ropes to Johnson, but she could not manage to reach them and she was lost under the ship. Several witnesses reported seeing a second body dead in the water. Fletcher dove in, swam to it and rested on the corpse for a few minutes before letting go. He was unconscious when a lifeboat reached him and due to the intense cold died in hospital a few days later. He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal.

After Johnson disappeared,

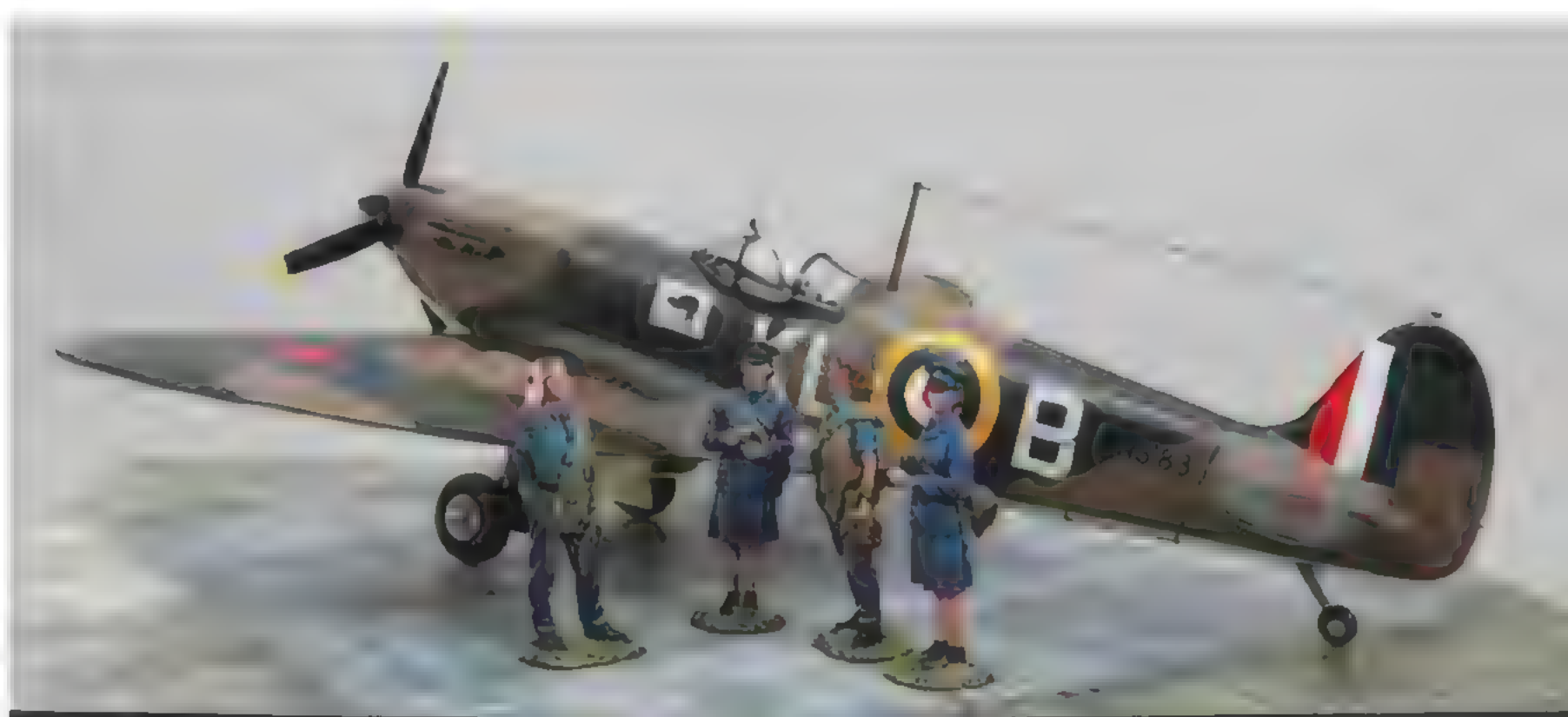
her watertight flying bag, logbook and cheque book later washed up ashore near the crash site. A memorial service was held for her in London at St Martin in the-Fields on 14 January 1941. Johnson has been memorialised many ways and was the subject of several films and television programmes starting with the biographical movie *They Flew Alone* (1942).

Interestingly, there has been controversy about the circumstances surrounding the female flier's death. In 1999, it was reported that an RAF aircraft might have shot her down because her plane couldn't be identified properly.

In 2016, it was revealed that a sailor believed that Johnson died because she was sucked into the would-be rescue ship's propeller blades.

World War II Releases

TGM has also issued three different World War II German Waffen SS soldiers wearing splinter camouflage



The new 'ATA Amy Johnson' (ref. RAFO06B) figure is shown third from the left in this diorama with previously released ATA and SOE women. The Supermarine Spitfire is a new model of the aircraft flown by New Zealand ace Alan Deere (ref. WOW502).



Three different German SS figures are available in two variants.

Comrades wearing either a helmet (A version) or cap (B version) are posed 'Charging with Rifle and Bayonet' (ref. SS153) and 'Charging at

Port Arms' (ref. SS154). A 'SS Trooper Shot' is armed with either a MP40 (A version) or Stg44 (B version). They aren't pictured here,

but extra Nazi firepower can be mobilised with new grey models of a 'Pak 36 37mm Antitank Gun' (ref. ACCPAK036B) or a '75mm

Infantry Support Gun' (ref. ACCPAK059B).

All of these new releases are sold singly for £50/\$55 US.

Magnificent Machines

Various magnificent flying machines painstakingly made from mahogany have been added to TGM's 'Warbirds' range. The limited edition 1/30-scale models include a striking World War I German 'Red Baron Fokker Dr.I' triplane (ref. WOW507) priced at \$625. World War II representations include a German trimotor 'Blohm & Voss BV.138 Sea Dragon' float plane (ref. WOW501) that costs \$1,900 and several \$750 RAF Supermarine Spitfire variants as flown by different notable pilots. Please check the maker's website to check what's included and availability.

World War I German 'Red Baron Fokker Dr.I' triplane (ref. WOW507).



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World War II German 'Blohm & Voss BV.138 Sea Dragon' (ref. WOW501).



W. Britain Model Figures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

A squad of World War II American GIs, a nineteenth century Royal Marine, a Canadian Mountie on horseback, a mighty fine fiddler and five very useful scenic sets highlight recent 1/30-scale releases from W. Britain Model Figures.



'US Infantryman with Panzerfaust, 1944-45' (ref. 25241).

Combat Arms

Seven different figures of US Army soldiers help accentuate how this year marks the 80th anniversary of the Allies' successful D-Day invasion of German occupied France on 6 June 1944. It marked the beginning of the march to liberate Western Europe culminating in Nazi Germany's surrender the following year.

A new 'US Infantryman with Panzerfaust, 1944-45'

(ref. 25241) illustrates how World War II combatants sometimes turned their foes' own weapons against them. For instance, as supplies dwindled toward the end of the war, the German Wehrmacht used captured US M1 carbines and called them the *Selbstladekarabiner* 455(a) with the 'a' standing for *Amerika*.

This detailed matt-painted figure reflects how a GI probably would have felt fortunate to get his hands on a powerful *Panzerfaust* because of the German anti tank weapon's effectiveness. According to research shared by W. Britain President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen and his team, following the D-Day landings the number of British tanks taken out by *Panzerfausts* increased to 34 per cent. On the Eastern Front, about 70 per cent of the Soviet Red Army tanks destroyed were credited to the *Panzerfaust* as Russian forces slogged through urban warfare climaxing in the Fall



'US Infantry BAR Man Standing Alert, 1942-45' (ref. 25280).

of Berlin on 2 May 1945.

Also new is the 'US Infantry BAR Man Standing Alert, 1942-45' (ref. 25280). The M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle dated from World War I. It was originally designed to fire its twenty round magazine from the hip by wearing a shoulder sling and cradling its butt in a cup on the soldier's belt, but that didn't work well for 'walking fire' as originally intended due to hefty weapon's open bolt operation and jarring recoil. Still, the BAR proved to be an effective shoulder fired automatic weapon during World War II.

The 'US Infantry NCO Shouting with Thompson, 1943-45' (ref. 25245) tries to overcome the din of battle to direct his squad. Figures titled 'US Infantryman Prone Loading M1 Garand, 1943-45' (ref. 25288) and 'US Infantryman with M1 Garand, 1944-45' (ref. 25242) are both armed with the gas operated semiautomatic weapon regarded as the war's best service rifle. Ken noted how until a soldier mastered the proper procedure for



'US Infantry NCO Shouting with Thompson, 1943-45' (ref. 25245).

handling the weapon, it could cause the dreaded 'M1 Thumb' if the powerful main spring slammed a soldier's thumb between the bolt and receiver. That seems like a painful big but (not butt). Ouch!

Another new GI (ref. 25305) has a tube shaped M7 grenade launcher slotted over the end of his M1 rifle. First a user would load blank cartridges into his rifle. When fired, the cartridges generated

'US Infantryman Prone Loading M1 Garand, 1943-45' (ref. 25288).



'US Infantryman with M1 Garand, 1944-45' (ref. 25242)





'US Infantryman with Grenade Launcher, Winter 1944-45 (ref. 25305).



'Displacing: US 101st Airborne M1919 Machine Gun Crew' (ref. 25238).

expanding gases that could propel the grenade with great force. For some eye opening comparison, online sources report that a hand-thrown grenade's maximum range was about 30 metres (about 33 yards) versus the M7's impressive trajectory of up to 200 metres (220 yards). Each of the aforementioned GLs costs \$48 US.

Also new is a \$96 set with two running figures dubbed 'Displacing: US 101st Airborne M1919 Machine Gun Crew' (ref. 25238). The 30 calibre M1919A6 was designed to be upgrade from the BAR to help lay down sustained

covering fire for troops trying to advance against enemy positions. The weapon was fitted with a buttstock, a front barrel with a carrying handle and a bipod similar to the type used with the BAR. Ken observed, "Unlike the BAR, the M1919A6 muzzle device allowed the gun crew to replace the barrel, which was an improvement, but still an awkward procedure that put the gun out of action for several minutes."

This animated set of paratroopers would inject a sense of urgency and action into a host of diorama scenarios for enthusiasts.

Scarlet Dress

I have a great affection for all types of toy soldiers in scarlet dress, so of course I like a 'Royal Marine Drummer, 1805' (ref. 13091) that has been added to the maker's nautical 'Jack Tars and Leathernecks' range. Marines first formed divisional bands at the Royal Navy bases and dockyards at Plymouth, Chatham and Portsmouth in 1767. Marine corps of drums also provided music aboard ships. Painstaking detailing enhances this miniature percussionist's period dress and drum.

At long last – hooray – W. Britain has finally gotten around to trotting out a new Canadian cop on horseback, a favourite theme of both

metal and plastic figures issued by this brand name through the years. It is titled 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Male Trooper on Horseback (ref. 10174)'.

The rider is modelled in ceremonial dress composed of a felt campaign hat, a Red Serge tunic, oxblood gloves, an oxblood Sam Browne belt, a white sidearm lanyard,

midnight blue breeches with yellow piping and oxblood riding boots.

This Mountie holds a lance, so he is ready to recreate a traditional performance of the Musical Ride mounted on a black horse, the only colour of steed enlisted by the RCMP since 1938. After the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II on 19 September 2022,

'Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Male Trooper on Horseback (ref. 10174).



'Royal Marine Drummer, 1805' (ref. 13091).



'Fiddlin' Away the Time: Man with Fiddle, 1795-1825' (ref. 35055).



mounted constables who looked like this model led the procession through London in honour of the RCMP's special and longstanding relationship with the monarch.

Overall, this \$130 Mountie's

details look correct to me. If they're not, I'm confident that one of my picky Canadian friends will be sure to let me know!

Fiddling Around

If my selfish moaning about

the Mountie's price tag made any amused reader think "cry me a river" and imagine hearing sad violin music, then guess what's next! Now W. Britain's 'Village Green' collection has been joined by a figure dubbed 'Fiddlin' Away the Time: Man with Fiddle, 1795-1825' (ref. 35055).

Personally, I played the cello as a schoolboy, but this violinist is alright by me. The sculpting of his posture, his straw hat and the design of his clothing combine to convey both the musician's joy and his historical era. Please expect to pay \$48 for this charming addition to any shelf display or diorama.

Scenic Selections

Five fantastic and versatile sets have been added to the 'Scenics' series that would make either 'Village Green'

civilians like the fiddler or marching soldiers feel right at home.

They include 'Going to Market Mid-19th-20th Century Cart with Produce' (ref. 53026). Besides a four wheeled cart, this set includes two milk cans, two sacks, two crates and a wicker basket. The maker's brand new 'Village Pump, 18th 19th Century' (ref. 53027) would be the highlight of a variety of scenarios depicting soldiers watering their horses or civilians gathering to share news and gossip.

Two different sets supply handy tools for farmers. A wheelbarrow, a sled-like stone boat for moving heavy objects, a scythe, pitchforks, a sickle, a winnowing tray, a wooden grain shovel, a pick and a metal shovel are all included in the 'Farm Tools,



'Going to Market Mid-19th-20th Century Cart with Produce' (ref. 53026).

'Village Pump, 18th-19th Century' (ref. 53027).



18th 19th Century, Set No. 1' set (ref. 53028)

Tools associated with building and maintenance of a farm compose the 'Farm Tools, 18th 20th Century, Set No. 2' (ref. 53038). Its miniature saw, axe, adze, drawknife and shave horse would be handy for woodworking projects. Also included are a grinding wheel for keeping tools sharp, a pulley to help move things and a ladder. When it's time to milk a cow, a farm family would need this set's pail and stool too

Last but certainly not least, W. Britain is issued a set called 'Barrels, 18th-20th Century Wet and Dry Cooperage' (ref. 53037). Ken explained how the three basic types of the ancient art of cooperage are termed white, dry and wet. Often pine or oak would be used to make straight sided white cooperage items such as tubs, butter churns and buckets. Dry cooperage includes kegs and casks for dry goods that might not be watertight and waterproof. Wet cooperage refers to barrels precisely crafted to hold liquids. I am familiar with the later type because another one of my hobbies is exploring the history, science and flavours of bourbons

'Farm Tools, 18th-19th Century, Set No.1' (ref. 53028).





aged in charred American oak barrels

These new 'Scenic' series sets would be quite useful in wide-ranging timeframes. The 'Village Pump' costs \$110 and the rest sell for \$68.

Now that I've spent a Saturday writing this toy soldier review, I think I'll shutdown my computer and explore my bourbon collection a bit. Cheers!



'Barrels, 18th-20th Century Wet and Dry Cooperage' (ref. 53037).

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Kronprinz Toy Soldiers

Union Forces at Fredericksburg

Reviewed by George Phillips

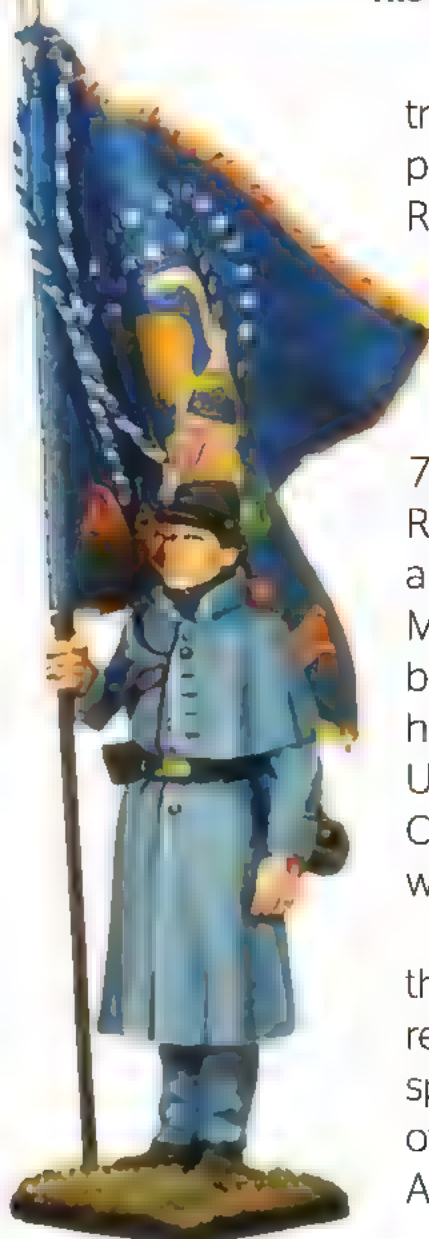
Regular readers of *TSC&HF* will know that I'm a huge fan of the 1/30 scale metal figures produced by Kronprinz Toy Soldiers of Spain. Among my favourites are the American Civil War (ACW) sets based on sculpts by artist and proprietor Emilio Arredondo. Though the maker's ACW figures have been available singly for some years, Kronprinz is promoting a deal on its website to make it possible for collectors to purchase groups of all the existing matt finished figures in three of its Union Army regimental ranges at slightly discounted prices. They are based on the Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia on 11-15 December 1862. The clash involved about 201,000 soldiers, ranking it as the largest concentration of combatants during the course of the war and one of the bloodiest. The battle in and around Fredericksburg encompassed everything from the first opposed river crossing in US military history to the Civil War's first urban combat. The battle was depicted in the movie *Gods and Generals* (2003).

Union Offensive

Union Major General George B. McClellan was sacked as commander of the Army of the Potomac for failing to pursue Confederate General



The Union Army '20th Maine Infantry Regiment, Fredericksburg' set (ref. ACW 105).



'20th Maine Infantry Regimental Standard Bearer' (ACW 086).

Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the wake of the Battle of Antietam, also known as Sharpsburg, on 17 September 1862 in Maryland. McClellan's replacement, Major General Ambrose E. Burnside, faced pressure to advance rapidly, so he formulated an ambitious plan to beat Lee to the Confederate capital city of Richmond, Virginia.

After Burnside's approximately 123,000

troops used a half dozen pontoon bridges to cross the Rappahannock River from Falmouth to Fredericksburg, they began determined attacks on the left and right flanks of Lee's 78,000-strong force. The Rebel defenders, including a key fortified position atop Marye's Heights, turned back the Yankees. The heavy toll totalled 12,653 Union casualties and 5,377 Confederate soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Union morale dipped after the battle, while the outcome reenergised Confederate spirits after Lee's first invasion of the North had failed at Antietam.

20th Maine

First up are figures of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment depicted wearing long winter coats over their Federal blue uniforms (ref. ACW 105). Led by Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, the unit became renowned for its bravery and tactical prowess during the war.

At Fredericksburg, the 20th Maine was not directly engaged in the main assault but was instead tasked with protecting the Union army's vulnerable left flank. Positioned on a hill overlooking the Rappahannock River, the regiment faced Confederate forces under the command of Lieutenant General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson. Despite being outnumbered and facing harsh conditions, including bitter cold and a shortage of rations, the men of the 20th Maine held their ground tenaciously. Their steadfastness prevented Confederate forces from exploiting a gap in the Union lines and potentially encircling the entire army.

Chamberlain's leadership was instrumental in rallying his troops and maintaining their morale under intense pressure. His strategic



The 20th Maine's 'Lieutenant Colonel Chamberlain' (ref. ACW 057).



'20th Maine Infantry Regiment Drummer' (ACW 059).



A colourful set portrays the Union Army's '5th New York Infantry Regiment, Fredericksburg', also known as Duryée's Zouaves (ref. ACW 104).

'Captain Cleveland Winslow' (ref. ACW 103) of Duryée's Zouaves.



decision making combined with the discipline of his men proved crucial in preventing disaster for the Union forces. The bravery and sacrifice of the regiment at Fredericksburg earned them lasting acclaim and foreshadowed their heroic defence of Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania seven months later.

Kronprinz's representation of the 20th Maine consists of nineteen figures with each standing to attention as if waiting to be deployed. The set includes riflemen, officers, drummers, flag bearers and

a nicely rendered character figure of Chamberlain. This striking set is priced at €673.00.

5th New York Zouaves

The second collection depicts fighting men of the 5th New York Infantry Regiment (ref. ACW 104). Also known as Duryée's Zouaves, the volunteer unit found itself in the thick of the action in some of the bloodiest engagements of the war. Its battle honours include Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

The 5th New York carved itself a reputation for unflinching courage and a steady bearing under fire. For instance, the regiment lost 162 of the 450 men deployed during the Peninsula campaign's Battle of Gaines' Mill on 27 June 1862 in Virginia.

This is a truly action-packed sixteen figure set. The poses include colourful zouaves firing, advancing, loading, charging, struck in the face by shrapnel and wounded or dying on the ground. There is also a stirring mounted

'Sergeant Andrew B. Allison, 5th New York Infantry Regiment US Flag Bearer' (ref. ACW 094).



'5th New York Infantry Regiment Private No. 3' (ref. ACW 100).



'Sergeant John H. Berrian, 5th New York Infantry Regiment Standard Bearer' (ref. ACW 088).





The Irish Brigade set of the '28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, Fredericksburg' (ref. ACW 106).

character figure of Captain Cleveland Winslow, the regiment's only officer who survived the Second Battle of Bull Run (also known as the Second Battle of Manassas) in Virginia on 28-30 August 1862. There the 5th New York lost 332 men of about 525 engaged in just ten minutes of combat.

The set also features two superb flag bearers with highly detailed standards.

This is probably my favourite set of ACW figures by any manufacturer and you can buy the lot for €616.

Irish Brigade

The final set is a dynamic depiction of the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (ref. ACW 106). Part of the famed Irish Brigade, the regiment was raised in Boston.

The 28th Massachusetts

participated in Union forces' ill-fated assault on Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg. Commanded by Colonel Richard Byrnes, the Irish-American volunteers advanced bravely across open ground under heavy fire toward the formidable Rebel defences.

Despite the men's courage and determination, the 28th Massachusetts, along with other Union regiments, suffered devastating losses as they attempted to breach the Confederate lines. The sheer intensity of the Confederate firepower proved insurmountable and the regiment suffered heavy casualties.

This highly animated set of eighteen figures features a great selection of charging and advancing riflemen and flag bearers dressed in winter great coats. There are also fallen, wounded and dying poses, and a dynamically posed officer advancing with his sword raised. This terrific little collection can be yours for €637



'28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment Drummer, Fredericksburg' (ref. ACW 081).



'Irish Brigade Standard Bearer' (ref. ACW 084).



'28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment Officer, Fredericksburg' (ref. ACW 078).

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Russia's 'Elizabethgrad Hussars 1805' (ref. RNC29) by ATS.

Alexanders Toy Soldiers

Russia's Elizabethgrad Hussar

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

An absolutely stunning 54mm set of Russia's 'Elizabethgrad Hussars 1805' (ref. RC29) have trotted out of the UK studio of Nikola Biberovic, the craftsman behind Alexanders Toy Soldiers (ATS). He has been offering collectors a wide range of historical figures beautifully hand-painted in traditional gloss since 1997. If your preference is a matt finish, Nik would be happy to accommodate that too.

Imperial Russia took inspiration from Hungarian horsemen to first form hussar units in the 1600s, but they faded away. Czar Paul resurrected the light horse arm in the Russian army by raising eight regiments, including the Elizabethgrad Hussars, in 1784.

In 1805, during the Napoleonic Wars waged against France, Russia fielded

eleven hussar regiments in an array of colours in 1805. Each regiment had ten squadrons of horsemen and two depot squadrons for a total of about 1,900 men, including everything from an Orthodox priest and two altar boys to judges, hospital attendants, blacksmiths, scribes, veterinarians and host of other support specialties. When French Emperor Napoleon I led his mighty Grande Armée in the invasion of Russia in June 1812, he won battles at Smolensk and Borodino before occupying Moscow. Nevertheless, he failed to compel Czar Alexander I to sue for peace terms or destroy the Russian field army before embarking on a disastrous retreat from the capital city in wintry weather that cost the lives of nearly a million soldiers and civilians.

When the French invasion had begun, Russia had three main armies and other military formations. The Elizabethgrad Hussar Regiment was attached to the 2nd Infantry Corps of the 1st Army of the West under the overall command of Field Marshal Prince Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly. He initiated a scorched earth policy until being pressured by the Czar to engage Napoleon at Smolensk on 17/18 August. Barclay commanded the right flank at Borodino on 7 September. The hussars were highly colourful exceptions to the relatively drab appearance of the Russian army at the time. This is beautifully captured in this ATS set composed of an officer, standard bearer, trumpeter and hussar holding his carbine. Priced at £200, this attractive set aptly

illustrates the Elizabethgrad Hussars Regiment's flamboyant uniform including black shakos with white plumes and colourful cords, yellow dolmans, fur pelisses, red sabretaches, white breeches and black boots.

The detailed figures are enhanced by some neat touches such as how the officer is posed holding his pipe and the bases recreate grassy terrain. Besides being formed into a set, these figures are also available singly for £48.50 with the exception of the standard bearer priced at £60.

CONTACT

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Osprey Illustrator Graham Turner

David Grummitt interviews Graham Turner, one of the UK's best-known and most-respected military illustrators and the author of a new book about the Wars of the Roses.

Text: David Grummitt

Photos: Graham Turner and Osprey Publishing



Q. Most readers will be familiar with your work through the various Osprey Publishing books you've illustrated, but your latest title, *The Wars of the Roses: The Medieval Art of Graham Turner*, is on a different level. Why does the late Middle Ages have such a special appeal for you?

A. It captured my imagination as a child, most likely because of the armour, but my interest was also helped along by reading the wonderful little Ladybird *Adventure from History* books – *Warwick the Kingmaker* was a favourite – and it has developed from that ever since. The Wars of the Roses has everything: fascinating characters, shifting allegiances, the struggle for power and influence, human folly, success and catastrophe, and it took place when the development of armour was at its pinnacle.

The other books I've illustrated for Osprey (90 to date) have been commissions, but the *Wars of the Roses* book is my project, the result of years of research, writing and painting. Given the excellent relationship Osprey and I have built up over the past 30 years, they were a natural choice of publisher to approach to make my *Wars of the Roses* book a reality, and they certainly haven't disappointed – I am delighted with how it has turned out. I painted a lot of new work for the book, and only a few of the 120 or so paintings and drawings in it have appeared in other Osprey publications.



Edmund Beaufort, 2nd duke of Somerset, was the last commander of Lancastrian Normandy and killed at the first Battle of St. Albans. A veteran of the Hundred Years War, he is depicted wearing armour typical of the mid-fifteenth century. (Painting by Graham Turner © Graham Turner – www.studio88.co.uk)

Q. The battle paintings in the book are stunning and your recreations of Towton, Tewkesbury and Bosworth are among your best-known work, but the brutal hand-to-hand fighting you depict is not something, I presume, you have first-hand experience of. How do you go about recreating something as unimaginable as the brutality of medieval combat?

A. I consider myself very fortunate to have gained personal experience wearing armour, riding horses and jousting, all of which have helped considerably with how I portray armoured figures, but I am relieved to say that I have not experienced the horrors of war, so that is where I do have to use my imagination. I tend to avoid showing the full gruesomeness, usually preferring to either indicate that something brutal is about to happen or is happening just out of view. Leaving certain things to the viewer's imagination can sometimes be just as powerful as something gratuitously bloody, and there is a limit to what most people will hang on the wall and, to be honest, what I'd be prepared to paint.



Ralph Vestynden was Edward IV's standard bearer at Towton. He is shown wearing full plate armour and carrying the king's personal standard of the Black Bull. Both of these studies show the meticulous attention to detail and historical accuracy that is Graham's hallmark. (Painting by Graham Turner © Graham Turner – www.studio88.co.uk)

Medieval Indian Armies (2)

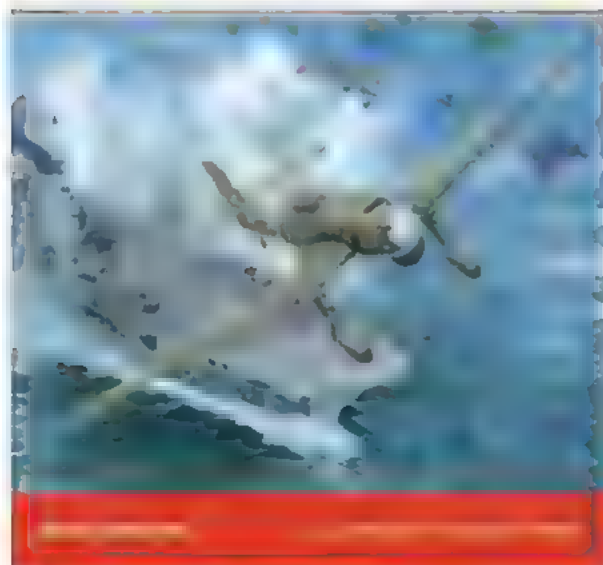
Indo-Islamic Forces, 7th–Early 16th Centuries



Graham's interest in the Middle Ages is evident in his illustrations for Osprey's recent two-volume *Medieval Indian Armies* (Men-at-Arms 545 and 552) authored by David Nicolle. (Osprey Publishing)

OPERATION PEDESTAL 1942

The Battle for Malta's Lifeline



The dynamism of Graham's art is apparent in his cover art for the recent World War II book *Operation Pedestal 1942: The Battle for Malta's Lifeline* (Campaign 394). (Osprey Publishing)

THE EAST AFRICA CAMPAIGN 1914–18

Von Lettow-Vorbeck's Masterpiece



Another recent Osprey title illustrated by Graham was *The East Africa Campaign 1914–18: Von Lettow-Vorbeck's Masterpiece* (Campaign 379). (Osprey Publishing)



An example of Graham's painstaking illustrations for the *Medieval Indian Armies* books. (Osprey Publishing)

Q. You talk a lot in the book about the meticulous research that underpins your Wars of the Roses paintings, but your work for Osprey encompasses everything from medieval India to World War II. What has been the most challenging subject you have illustrated?

A. Every painting throws up a different challenge, and no matter how familiar I am with a subject, there's always a lot to research involved. Usually, the information for the paintings I create from other historical periods for Osprey is provided by the author of the book, which is a crucial help because I recognise that I can't be an expert on everything; far better to focus on one period, which is what I decided on many years ago.

Q. Your artwork, especially for the Wars of the Roses, has inspired several manufacturers of toy soldiers and wargaming figures? Is this something you are aware of, and have you worked with or advised any figure manufacturers?

A. I have only recently become aware of this having had a few examples pointed out to me. It's not something I've been involved with, but it's interesting to hear about and discover more. I use all my creative energies producing paintings in 2D, not sculpting, but it is a skill I can admire.

Q. Readers might not be aware that you also paint motorsport subjects. Can you tell us a little more about that side of your work?

A. That is what got me started when I went freelance as a 24 year old back in 1984, following in the footsteps of my father who is extremely well known in this field. However, after a few years following this path, I realised that if I didn't find my own individual identity then I would always be compared to him, so I created a few romantic Arthurian inspired canvases, during which time my interest in the Wars of the Roses was awakened and I realised it was so much more interesting than anything you could make up.

Q. As I said, your historical interests have ranged widely, but is there one

period of military history that you haven't yet tackled that you would like to paint or a period where you would like to do more work?

A I have very wide-ranging interests, and so many paintings I'd love to create, but only one lifetime to paint them in! While I'd like to paint more from the Hundred Years War, writing this book has identified many areas from the Wars of the Roses I'd love to explore in greater depth. However, I still seem to be working flat out following the book's publication, so I need to let things settle a little before I decide how to proceed, and I've a lot of commissions to keep me busy. We'll see...

END



Medieval Indian Armies (1)

Hindu, Buddhist and Jain



Graham Turner's cover art for the *Medieval Indian Armies (1): Hindu, Buddhist and Jain* book (Men-at-Arms 545). (Osprey Publishing)

Colour plate by Graham Turner from *Medieval Indian Armies (1)*. (Osprey Publishing)



Hoysala war elephant illustration by Graham Turner from *Medieval Indian Armies (1)*. (Osprey Publishing)

ABOUT THE WRITER

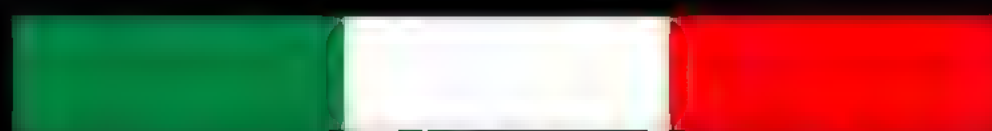
Guideline Publications Managing Editor David Crummett serves as the editor of both *Military Modelcraft International* and *Fantasy Figures International* magazines. He is also a professional historian, having previously taught at UK universities for 25 years. He is author of *A Short History of the Wars of the Roses* (Brewer, 2012).

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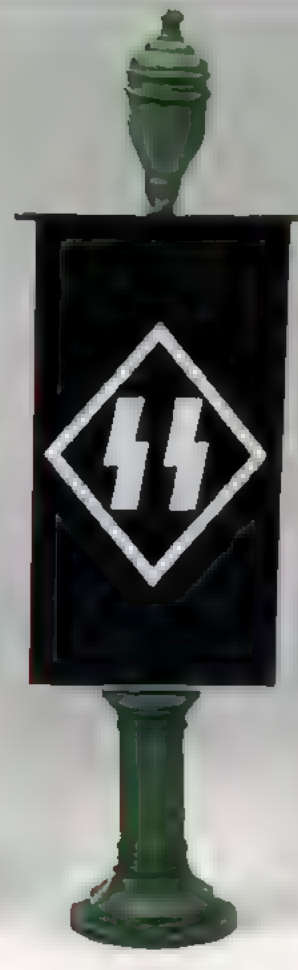
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Turning Point at Teutoburg



This 54mm Battle of Teutoburg Forest diorama was acquired by the Turner family, who operate UK-based Fusiller Miniatures and Tommy Atkins toy soldiers, and it was offered for sale at the Guideline Publications Spring Show in London on Saturday, 23 March.

George Phillips describes how the Battle of Teutoburg Forest altered the course of Roman expansion into Germania and left an indelible mark on the Ancient world.

Text: George Phillips

Photos: Andy Whittaker

Early in the first century AD, Rome was anxious to expand the borders of its empire that already stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Euphrates River in the Middle East, and from the Sahara Desert in North Africa to the Highlands of Scotland.

The backdrop to the Battle of Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD was the Roman Empire's relentless drive to expand its dominion into Germania, a vast land inhabited by tribal confederations fiercely resistant to foreign rule. Rome viewed Germania as a crucial frontier to secure and exploit. Publius Quinctilius Varus, a seasoned Roman general, was entrusted with the monumental task of pacifying Germania. However, his approach was marked by arrogance and complacency while underestimating the resolve and military tactics of the Germanic tribes.

Opposing Forces

On one side stood mighty Roman legions of professional, disciplined and battle hardened veterans of numerous campaigns across the known world. Led by Varus himself, three Roman legions – Legio XVI, Legio XVII and Legio XX – marched confidently into the depths of the Teutoburg Forest in modern day

Germany's state of North Rhine-Westphalia. With their ranks bolstered by auxiliary troops and support personnel, the Roman force has been estimated as ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 men.

Facing them was a similar number of Germanic warriors from various tribes including the Bructeri, Marsi and Chatti. They were united under the

leadership of Arminius, a chieftain of the Cherusci tribe and a former Roman auxiliary officer who had turned against his erstwhile masters. Arminius possessed intimate knowledge of Roman strategy and tactics that he would exploit to devastating effect.

The Battle

The Battle of Teutoburg Forest

unfolded amidst the dense foliage and treacherous terrain of the Ancient woodlands. Leveraging his understanding of Roman military doctrine, Arminius lured Varus and his legions into a carefully prepared trap. During the course of four days from 8-11 September, ambushes, hit-and-run attacks, and savage assaults from concealed positions took



The dramatic diorama depicts Roman forces being overwhelmed by Germanic warriors.

a massive toll on the Roman forces, causing chaos and panic within their ranks.

Encumbered by heavy equipment and terrain that made it impossible to form effective fighting formations, the legions found themselves in a deadly snare from which there was no escape. Cut off from their supply lines and overwhelmed by relentless, frenzied attacks, Varus and his men suffered catastrophic losses.

The once proud legions, symbols of Roman military might, were all but destroyed and their proud eagle standards captured by the triumphant Germanic tribesmen. Historians have estimated that the Romans suffered 16,000 to 20,000 killed while characterising the German losses as light. The small number of legionnaires who survived were forced into slavery. Varus himself is believed to have fallen on his own sword to avoid the shame of defeat.

Defeat's Aftermath

The battle's impact reverberated throughout the Roman Empire and the rest of the Ancient world. The defeat shattered the myth of invincibility surrounding the legions and

cast a critical shadow over their leadership. The loss of three legions dealt a severe blow to Roman ambitions in Germania, leading Emperor Augustus to halt further expansion of the empire beyond the Rhine River.

For the Germanic tribes, the victory at Teutoburg Forest was a rallying cry, galvanising their resolve to resist Roman incursions into their homeland. Arminius emerged as a legendary figure and is remembered by history as the liberator of Germania from foreign oppression.

The Battle of Teutoburg Forest serves as a cautionary tale, underscoring for future generations the perils of military hubris and the risk of underestimating the resolve of a determined adversary who is fighting to defend his homeland. **END**

ABOUT THE WRITER

TSC&HF Contributing Editor George Phillips is an award-winning historical novelist and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing. An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's hobby is military miniatures and he ignited 25 years ago when he has been writing for this magazine for sixteen years in its pages he describes it as "fascinating and rewarding".

A Roman signifier desperately tries to protect his unit's standard from being captured.



Barbarians charge into the fray.



OBITUARY

Tribute to Brian Hornick

(1932-2023)

Stephen Dance pens a tribute to the late Brian Hornick, a stalwart of the British Model Soldier Society.

Text: Stephen Dance

Photo: BMSS Archives



In early 1970, Brian Hornick (at right) mounted an exhibition of some 2,500 model soldiers depicting in authentic detail British and Commonwealth troops from 1898 to 1945. The display appeared in the windows of the branch office of the Leek and Westbourne Building Society at 60 Kingsway, London. The others are identified as Branch Manager Mr Dwight, Chief Clerk Mr Buckley and Cashier Mrs. Holmes from the left. (BMSS Archives)

British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) stalwart Brian Hornick died peacefully at age 91 on 28 September 2023.

The long time member served on both the National Committee and as the honorary editor of *The Bulletin*, the official journal of the organisation. During his tenure, Brian introduced a very different look for the publication. He was made a fellow of the BMSS in 1974.

During his working life, Brian was an insolvency practitioner. In essence, it involved helping companies go into liquidation or individuals to go into bankruptcy. He often said that he felt like he was a form of undertaker. Brian was a tall and distinguished figure who was always neatly turned out. He is perhaps best remembered for creating huge displays of carefully repainted or converted lead Britains toy soldiers laid out in an immaculate style with appropriate and informative labelling for viewers. These displays were usually mounted in museums or at financial institutions with extensive window space. He used them to publicise the hobby of model soldier collecting and the BMSS. He also made appearances of BBC television programmes to talk about model soldiers.

At one time, Brian's collection is believed to have had in excess of 100,000 figures. His three main themes were the British Army in 1914, the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the unique 1945 'Victory in Europe Procession'. The latter consisted of an astonishing 18,000 figures. Brian was interested in music of all kinds and was an active member of Jewish male voice choirs for much of his life. Some of his fellow choristers sang at his funeral on 2 October. His daughter, Gill Freedman, remarked that it was beautiful and her father would have loved it.

Our sincere condolences to Brian's daughter, his son Philip and his extended family. ■

Editor's Note: This tribute was based on an obituary that appeared in The Bulletin edition No. 1 of 2024 courtesy of the BMSS.

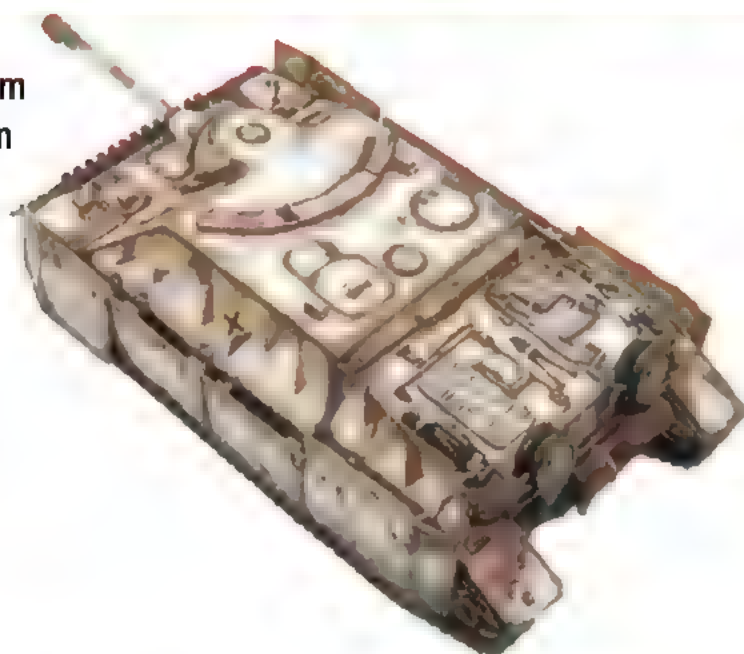
ABOUT THE WRITER

Stephen Dance is currently the BMSS archivist and past president of the Society. He has been passionately interested in model soldiers since childhood. His interests embrace both vintage toy soldiers and the more detailed offerings of model makers, past and present.

Brian was a tall and distinguished figure who was always neatly turned out. He is perhaps best remembered for creating huge displays of carefully repainted or converted lead Britains toy soldiers laid out in an immaculate style with appropriate and informative labelling for viewers. These displays were usually mounted in museums or at financial institutions with extensive window space. He used them to publicise the hobby of model soldier collecting and the BMSS. He also made appearances of BBC television programmes to talk about model soldiers.

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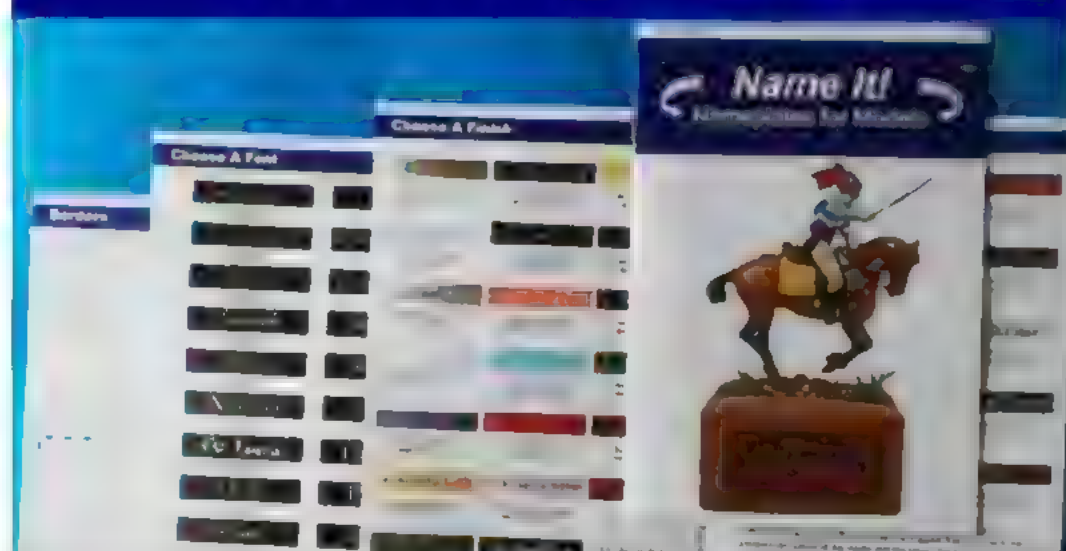
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The Ultimate D-Day Diorama

Dan Nance commemorates June's 80th anniversary of the largest seaborne invasion in history by exploring the scope of the World War II Allies' Operation Neptune and showing how he recreated Omaha Beach in miniature.

Text and Photos: Dan Nance

The element of surprise was essential on Tuesday, 6 June 1944, as the World War II Allies' long awaited airborne and amphibious landings commenced in northern France. Faced with Adolf Hitler's Atlantic Wall, which totalled a 2,400-mile line of defences, soldiers of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and other Allied nations stormed ashore on five different beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast.

Operation Overlord was the codename for the Allied invasion north west Europe 80 years ago. Its assault phase was known as Operation Neptune. The objective was to establish a beachhead in France to set the stage for an Allied advance across German occupied Western Europe.

After numerous delays and major planning changes, D-Day was originally scheduled for 5 June, however, weather conditions deteriorated as paratroopers and glider troops prepared to board their aircraft on 4 June for an airborne assault under the cover of darkness. After a 24-hour delay, US Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander, made the decision to launch the D Day invasion on 6 June to take advantage of a small window of opportunity weather wise.

Guards.

Soon other countries began to adopt advantages of the German military system, including its General Staff concept, universal conscription and detailed mobilisation programs. An important role of the General Staff was to study previous Prussian operations and avoid mistakes. In addition, the Prussian officer corps' educational system was far superior to its French equivalent. German officers were trained to use initiative and engage in independent thinking. In contrast, the French military educational and promotional system stifled intellectual development.

D-Day by the Numbers

Mind boggling numbers of Allied forces were arrayed against the approximately 50,000 German defenders under the overall command of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who had gone home for his wife Lucia's birthday. About 23,400 Allied airborne troops began landing in Normandy after midnight. Sources say 11,590 aircraft supported the Allied assault forces as D Day unfolded.

The Operation Neptune invasion fleet was launched from Britain to cross the Channel. It totalled 6,939 vessels with 80 per cent of them British, 16.5 per cent US and the rest hailing from France, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland.

They included 1,213 combat ships, 4,126 landing vessels, 864 merchant vessels and 736 ancillary craft.

The Allied assault troops included 177 French commandos and soldiers from Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway and Poland. The majority were 73,000 American infantry and airborne troops earmarked for the Omaha and Utah Beaches sectors, 61,175 British infantry and airborne forces destined for Gold and Sword Beaches, and 21,000 Canadians assigned to assault Juno Beach along with British comrades.

Operation Neptune involved 195,700 naval personnel and 156,115 soldiers overall



Allied troops hit the beach in the D-Day diorama created by Dan Dance.



Operation Neptune's Allied armada included British vessels that appeared off the coast of Normandy on D-Day. (US National Archives)



Royal Marines of 47 Commando emerge from a Landing Craft Assault (LCA) while Landing Craft Tank (LCT) vessels discharge their cargo at Gold Beach. (Imperial War Museum)

Omaha Beach Bloodbath

A short naval and aerial bombardment preceded the D Day landings, which began at around 06:30. It was a rough go for the Americans at first.

Utah Beach was the invasion's most westerly target spanning three miles long. The US forces bound for it were blown off course, resulting in infantrymen going ashore nearly a mile out of position. Paratroopers of the US 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions were scattered behind Utah Beach as much as tens of miles off-target. Of the 23,000 troops who assaulted that sector, 197 men were killed or wounded, the lightest casualties out of all the Allied landings.

The US landings on Omaha Beach proved to be exceptionally challenging as dramatically portrayed in the movies *The Longest Day* (1962) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) because that area was heavily fortified with German bunkers, artillery and machine gun positions.

Adverse weather conditions, strong currents and inaccurate intelligence about the strength of the enemy defences resulted in the first wave of American troops encountering intense opposition as they landed. Numerous landing crafts were destroyed or disabled by enemy fire.

Many of the GIs were new to combat. After jumping over the side of their landing crafts, some were drowned before reaching shore due to the weight of their equipment. Americans who made it to the beach struggled to advance in the open in the face of withering German fire. Despite all the difficulties and heavy losses, individual acts of bravery,





The diorama recreates how German defenders were positioned on bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach.

➔ leadership and adaptability played a crucial role in gradually overcoming the enemy defences.

Survivors gathered into patchwork groups that continued up the beach and reached the bluffs, while attacking enemy pillboxes and trench lines they encountered. As the morning turned into afternoon, the German defenders, who were running out of ammunition and the will to continue, were overrun by the fortitude, determination and perseverance of the American soldiers.

Though the GIs prevailed, Omaha Beach was a bloody affair. For example, the 1st Infantry Division reported eighteen officers and 168 enlisted men killed, seven officers and 350 men missing, and 45 officers and 575 men wounded. Overall, storming Omaha Beach resulted in a total of 2,400 US casualties, but 34,000 troops were ashore by nightfall.

Allied Advances

Things went a bit more to plan for the British and Canadian forces on D Day.

The 25,000 British troops who landed at Gold Beach suffered 400 casualties while succeeding in pushing the Germans back six miles inland. At Sword Beach, located about nine miles north of Caen, British and French commandos helped make possible to land 29,000 troops at a cost of 630 casualties.

Juno Beach, the second beach from the east, extended along a six mile sector on either side of the port of Courseulles sur Mer from La Rivière to Saint Aubin sur Mer. The assault was made by 21,100 men from the Canadian 3rd Division and the British 2nd Army, 1st Corps. Many of the force's 1,200 casualties happened in the first wave, but by the end of the day they succeeded in wresting control of the area from elements of the



German 716th Infantry Division. That evening the Canadians linked up with the British 50th Division, who had landed to the west at Gold Beach.

Firm Foothold

By the time the overwhelming Operation Neptune officially ended on 30 June 1944, the Allies had landed 850,279 men, 148,803 vehicles and 570,505 tons of supplies. Operation Overlord continued until Allied forces crossed the River Seine on 19 August and began the battle for the liberation of Paris that climaxed with the German garrison's surrender on 25 August.

D Day proved to be a resounding success by establishing a firm foothold in France that helped paved the way for Nazi Germany's ultimate defeat and unconditional surrender in May 1945.



The Atlantic Wall's defenders were commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who is shown here inspecting the 21st Panzer Division in May 1944. (German Federal Archives)



Canadian soldiers guard German prisoners captured on D-Day at Juno Beach. (National Archives of Canada)



A US Army paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division ('Screaming Eagles') who has subdued German foes is the focal point of this 'Death from Above' painting by Dan Nance.

D-Day Diorama

Some historians have referred to D Day as the beginning of the end of World War II. Eighty years later, the US assault at Omaha Beach still epitomises the courage and sacrifices of Allied soldiers who fought on that pivotal day in history.

In mid-2020, with the coronavirus pandemic still in full effect and everyone pretty much staying close to home, I decided to use my spare time to tackle one of the most ambitious projects of my career by recreating D-Day in 1/30 scale for a World War II room that is part of the collection of my friend and business partner Cameron M. Harris as detailed in *TSC&HF* issue 115. I planned to include everything from American paratroopers dropping into Normandy under the cover of darkness to G's storming ashore in the face of heavy fire from dogged German defenders. After all, D-Day ranks as one of the most audacious and consequential events in military history despite all the odds the Allies faced, so I wanted to create a monument in miniature to memorialise it.

The diorama had to be big and bold in scale. I wanted a long beachfront with the US landing crafts coming in and imposing German defences on bluffs looming over them. In a nutshell, I wanted to create epic film scenes from *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Longest Day* in 3D. There were great and numerous matt painted metal military miniatures available from fantastic manufacturers like King & Country Ltd., Conte Collectibles, W. Britain Model Figures, Thomas Gunn Miniatures, First Legion Ltd. and The Collectors Showcase to populate the scene, so my main focus was to produce an engaging environment to put them in.





Gathering supplies for building the diorama including cutting up a 4-by-8-foot sheet of ½-inch thick foam insulation in the parking lot of a home improvement store so it would fit into the back of Dan's SUV.



The initial concept for the Omaha Beach diorama is worked out on Dan's worktable. He aimed to create a long beach scene that contained both Axis and Allied positions ranging from the bluffs to the Channel.



Dan's action-packed 'Bloody Omaha' painting depicts GIs rushing ashore under fire.



Dan cut out a coastline, divided it in two and then pulled the shiny film off of the beach section. By cutting the lightweight material in sections, he could focus on one piece at a time and then jigsaw puzzle them back together.



Styrofoam panels were used to design German positions on the bluffs at Omaha Beach.



After the shapes and elevations were carved out, masking tape was used to cover all of the structures to create a single lightweight component.

→ It took me more than two months to build the beach scene and almost a year for the entire room to reach completion. Major challenges included producing a long unbroken beach that required a seven foot foam core base and then a realistic turbulent ocean created from an aluminium foil technique that I saw on YouTube.

Adding mirrors doubled the length of the coastline. A digitally created backdrop of the Channel produced a stunning

view of the horizon.

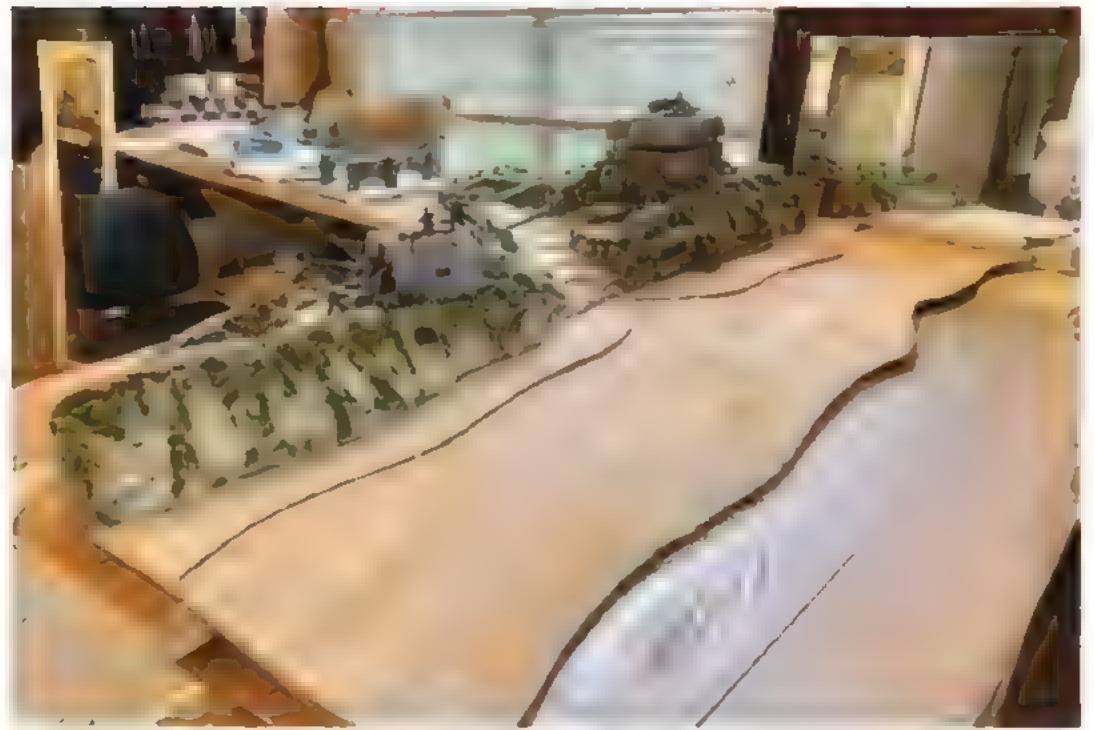
All in all, I was very satisfied. The D Day project ranks as one of the most extensive dioramas I've ever produced.

Normandy Postscript

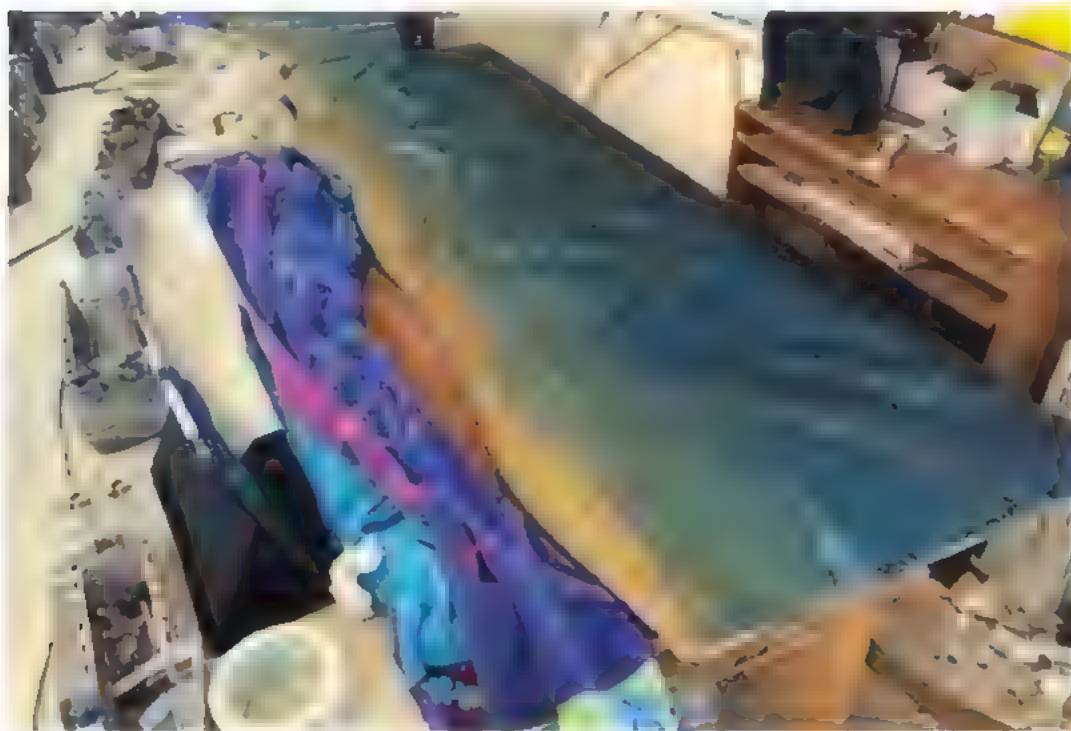
I was fortunate enough to travel from my US home to Normandy in 2023 and visit sites where D Day unfolded on Tuesday, 6 June 1944. It was truly inspiring to get a sense of



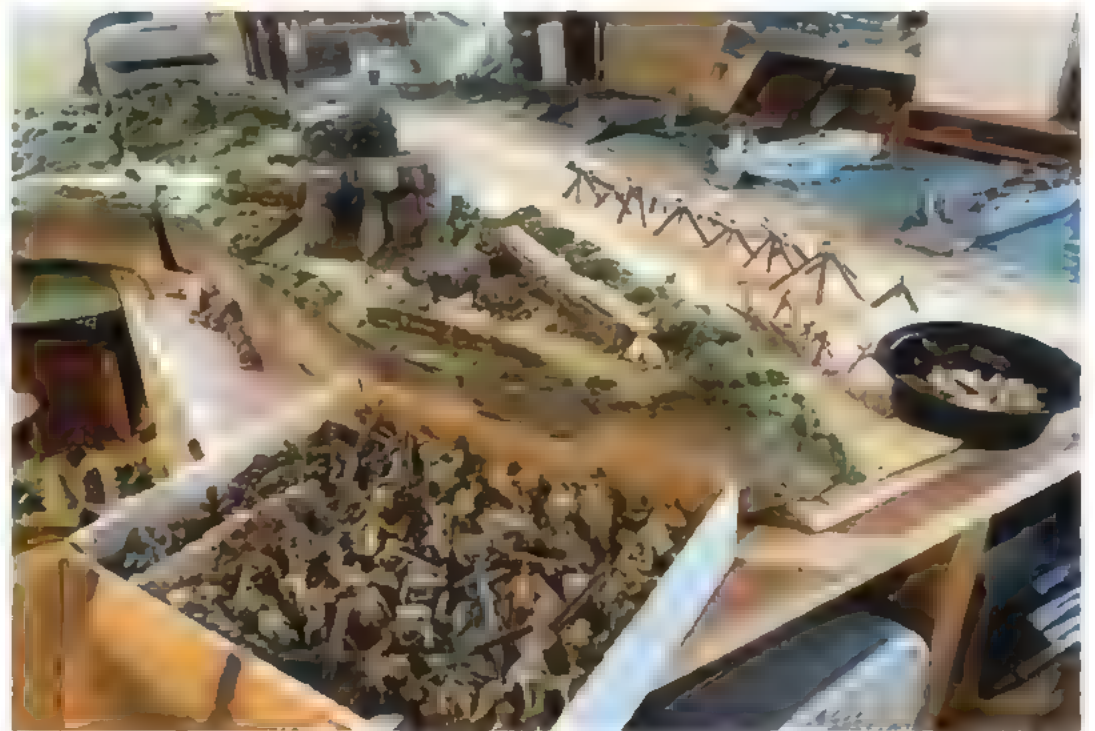
Dan covers a model cliff in thick modelling paste and gesso before spray painting it in green and brown tones.



After the clifftop German defences were landscaped, Dan brought various elements together to see how they would fit together and whether the mirror effect he wanted to achieve would work.



The ocean and shoreline waves were made using long strips of aluminium foil, sculpting wakes for landing crafts and using lots of white glue to join the layers before spray painting to create a wet finish.



A box of Allied troops stands by ready for placement while small details are added such as a sandbag emplacement and beach defences made from sticks found in Dan's backyard.



The diorama base is placed in the World War II room and ready to be animated with opposing 1/30-scale troops, vehicles and vessels.

the breadth of the unbelievable challenges Allied troops faced attacking seemingly impregnable enemy position. I hope my D-Day diorama pays some small tribute to them and honours the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought, bled and died to save the world from tyranny that day.

I am currently working on a full length documentary film titled *Ever Forward: Journey to Normandy* highlighting my eight-day trip to France. My experiences included an incredibly

personal chance of a lifetime opportunity to visit the exact location where my Great Uncle John 'Ace' Drummond, a 22 year old P-47 fighter pilot, was shot down in the area of Giéville during the summer of 1944. He was captured and spent the rest of the war in a German prison of war camp. After →

Dan's 'Taking Point' painting salutes the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division. First Lieutenant Robert P. Mathias, a platoon leader in its 508th Regiment, became the first US Army officer killed by German fire on D-Day.

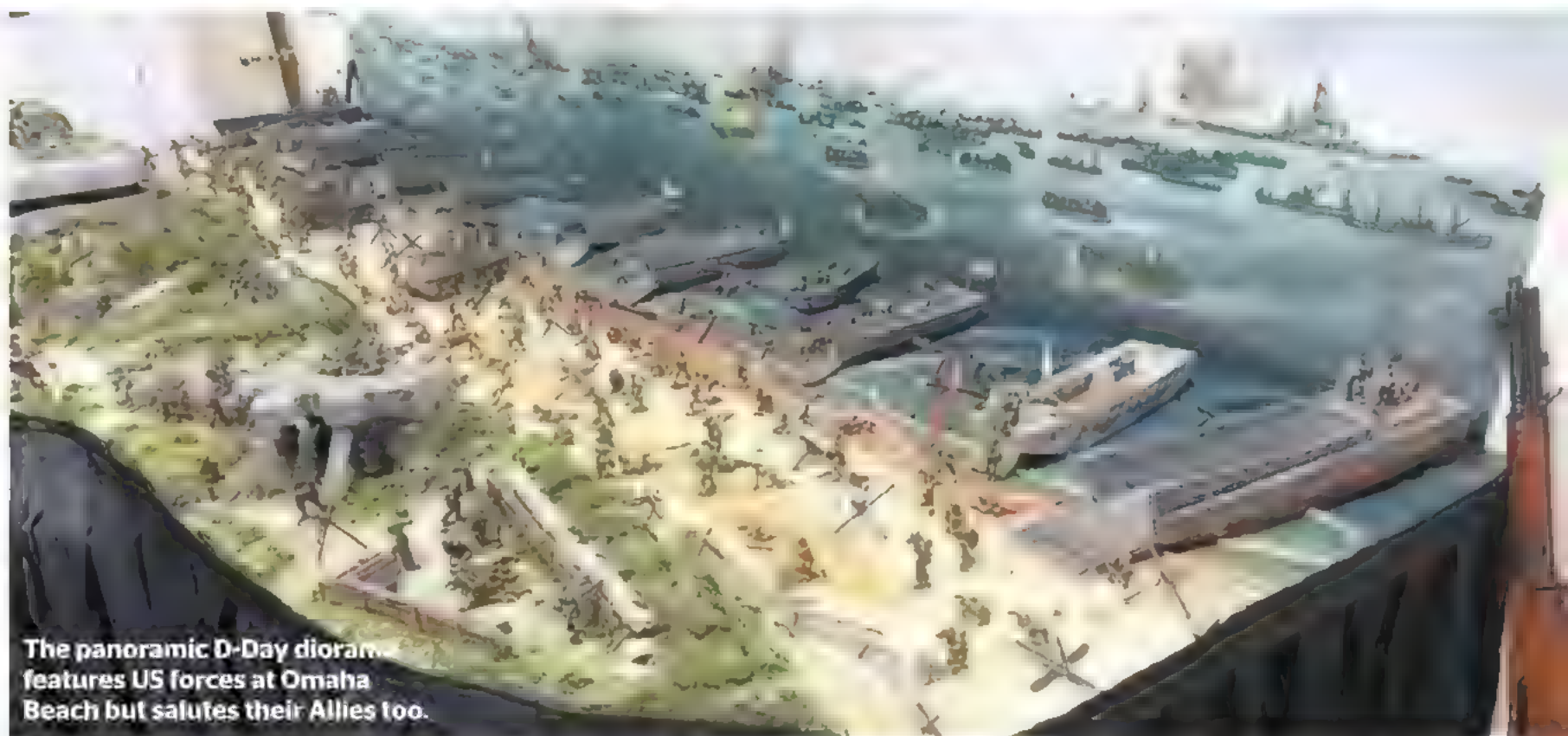




Overview of all the World War II room displays including the D-Day diorama.

→ World War II, he returned home to South Carolina and became a respected state senator for more than 40 years.

You can view videos and photos of progress being made on building a diorama inspired by my visit to Normandy at #dansdailydiorama and on my YouTube channel. END



The panoramic D-Day diorama features US forces at Omaha Beach but salutes their Allies too.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dan Nance is a professional artist and storyteller with a career spanning more than 30 years. The American's work has been featured on numerous books, magazines, monuments and films. With his passion for history and education, Dan is excited about what he's building with his paintings and dioramas for the purpose of honouring those who served in uniform and inspiring the next generation to learn about history to help shape their future. He lives and works in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife and two daughters.

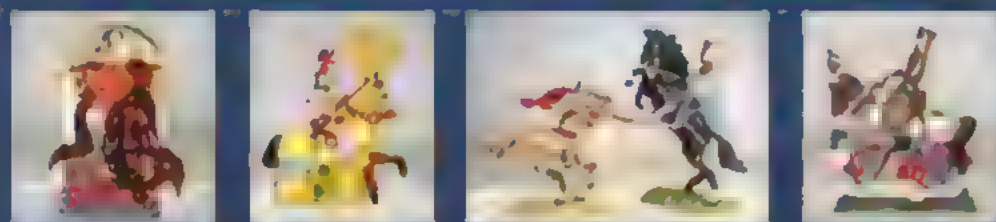


Dan Nance solemnly contemplates the gravitas of his surroundings while visiting Omaha Beach on 6 June 2023, the 79th anniversary of D-Day.



Toy soldier items mustered from various makers recreate the action at Omaha Beach.

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King & Country Returns To D-Day and Normandy

Andy C. Neilson details how K&C has recreated the World War II's Normandy campaign in miniature in the past and shares a sneak peek at new releases planned to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June.

Text: Andy C. Neilson

Photos: King & Country Ltd.

To mark the 80th anniversary of World War II's Allied D Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944, toy soldier maker King & Country Ltd. is once more focusing its aim on some of the men and machines that landed on the beaches, fought their way through Normandy's bocage country during the summer and then liberated hundreds of thousands of French civilians from the hated German Boche. Here are some of the stories behind the pictures, the figures and the fighting vehicles as K&C tells it.



K&C's retired D-Day 'US 82nd Airborne Troopers Minus One' set (ref. DD31) was first released in 2002.



British forces assault Sword Beach during the Operation Neptune amphibious assault phase of Operation Overlord.



Retired set of US Army 'Tank Riders' (ref. DD44).



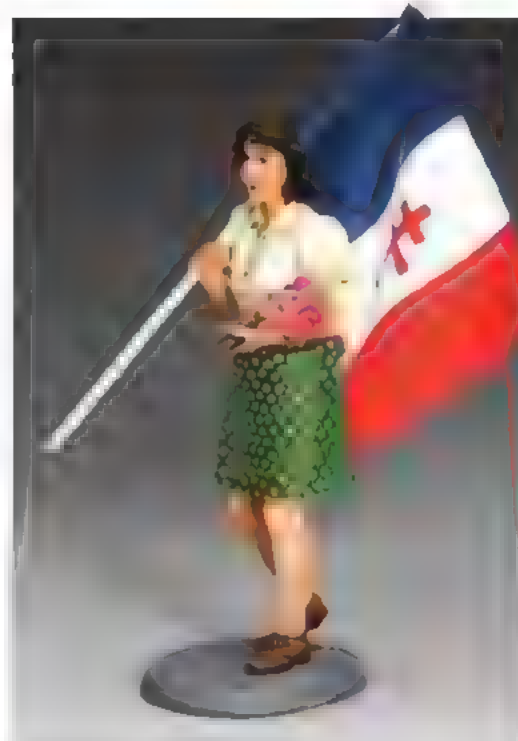
K&C's retired British 'Bren Gun Carrier' (ref. DD059).

Operation Overlord

As many readers already know, K&C loves historical anniversaries and it has created entire series based around specific battles, campaigns and even singular incidents that seem to resonate with toy soldier collectors around the globe. Operation Overlord was the codename for the Battle of Normandy, the Allied campaign that launched the successful liberation of German occupied Western Europe. The operation began in the early hours of 6 June when thousands of British and American paratroopers and glider borne infantry descended from the skies over Normandy to capture vital roads, bridges and other key points. These would be needed by their seaborne infantry, armour and artillery comrades landing on the main assault beaches along the coast just a few hours later.



Plans for upcoming releases include a French woman and her child welcoming their Allied liberators (ref. DD375).



A new figure portrays a woman with flowers and the flag of free France (ref. DD376).

'Greeting their liberators is a colourful collection of French civilians both young and old in a very happy mood!'

History in Miniature

Back in 1994, K&C began designing its first World War II series of figures and fighting vehicles titled 'Arnhem '44'. The range's matt-painted and 1/30-scale miniatures told the story of the ill-fated attempt by the British 1st Airborne Division to capture the famous road bridge at Arnhem in Holland as part of Operation Market Garden. The warm welcome and enthusiastic support from toy soldier collectors convinced K&C that it might be a good idea to look at other famous World War II events for both inspiration and sales!

Around the same time, the release and huge success of director Steven Spielberg's epic war movie *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) was also a driving force for K&C to jump headfirst into the bloody surf and bullet swept beaches of Normandy and then into the dense and almost impenetrable bocage that was the ancient Norman countryside.

Starting with just a few US Army paratroopers and infantry in action, K&C's regular releases of more and more figures as well as an amazing range of tanks, trucks, jeeps, airplanes and even all kinds of landing craft depicted the officers and men of many Allied nations fighting on land, at sea and in the air. The sheer scope and variety of K&C's D Day offerings is quite staggering. It would be justifiably true to say that during the last 25 years K&C has designed and produced many more soldiers, sailors and airmen for D Day than all its competitors combined. Here is just a tiny but representative selection of some of the best.

So, What's New?

Acting as K&C's creative director, I sat down with the creative and marketing team in 2023 to look back on what we had done in the past and to make plans to commemorate 2024's very special 80th anniversary of D Day.

We have modelled lots of fighting on the Allies' five different landing beaches and even among the hedgerows of the inland bocage through the years, so we started thinking about all the towns and civilians around Normandy.

Researching through piles of books and rewatching old documentaries was rewarding. It was wonderful to get a sense of the excitement and jubilation that liberation sparked in the ordinary French people of Normandy. After suffering life under the German jackboot for four years, it was now time to celebrate their newly won freedom and welcome the Allied liberators into their midst.

→ Among K&C's latest liberators are two brand new 1/30 scale, all metal US Sherman tanks with running tracks and full suspensions. Each tank comes with either a tarp-covered load of supplies or half dozen very useful sandbags. In addition, both Shermans are crewed by three figures and come in a sturdy, full colour presentation boxes with a numbered certificates.

Infantry Support

Each American Armored Division had at least one regiment (three battalions) of infantry attached that fought alongside the tanks or sometimes even rode into battle mounted on them. Now K&C is releasing an upgraded paint version of its popular US 'Tank Riders'. This four man section includes both kneeling and sitting G's with an assortment of infantry weapons. In addition, eight individual dismounted US 'Tankers' can be placed on the ground either next to each model or on various spots on the vehicles.

Viva les Americains!

Greeting their liberators is a colourful collection of French civilians both young and old in a very happy mood! Pretty young women enthusiastically wave flags as a local drinker raises his glass of beer in celebration. Meanwhile, other men shout a welcome to the GIs while children of all ages wave and salute the American tanks as they arrive in their town.

Among the dismounted tankers, babies are cuddled and ladies are kissed. The whole mood is a joyous celebration of freedom!

Liberation's Darkside

Amid all the celebrations, however, it's worth remembering that as towns all over Normandy and elsewhere were liberated, a violent wave of revenge and retribution also swept across the land often led by members of the French Resistance and the general public. think K&C might be the only toy soldier company that has depicted some of the less happy events that became commonplace during this tumultuous time.

New figures include a lovely French woman (ref. DD377) waving the US flag to welcome Allied forces.



A French family cheers their Allied liberators (ref. DD378).



Retired 'US Ambulance Jeep' (ref. DD68).



Apropos past releases include the 'Free French Scout Car' (ref. DD103).



An example of one of K&C's new metal US Sherman tanks (ref. DD382SE).



The maker's 360-degree views of an American tank crewman getting a hug and kiss from an overjoyed French woman (ref. DD389).



Among the first victims were anyone suspected of collaboration with the hated Boche or providing information to their Vichy French partners. They included thousands of French women who had romantic or 'professional' liaisons with the German occupiers. Many of those women were publicly shamed before having their hair shorn and being driven out of their towns and villages. For male collaborators, the punishment was often more extreme in the form of death by hanging or being shot.

After four long years of hardship and repression, there was

no shortage of old scores to be settled even in the middle of all the jubilation due to liberation.

Telling Stories

Throughout the past 25 years K&C has been designing and producing figures and fighting vehicles that illustrate the momentous events of June 1944. We believe it's important to the company and its collectors that we relate as truthfully and as accurately as possible this important part of history even in miniature.

ABOUT THE WRITER

King & Country Ltd. cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson hails from Scotland. After serving in the Royal Marines, he and his former wife Laura McAllister Johnson moved to the then British Crown Colony of Hong Kong in 1977 so Andy could begin training to become a junior inspector in the Royal Hong Kong Police. He got hooked on collecting toy soldiers after his brother Gordon gifted him a Royal Marines colour party made in the UK by Blenheim Military Models for his first Christmas. ~~From Dr. Nothing led to another before Larry and Andy founded K&C the "top copier of the world" in 1983 and it evolved into a top soldier and historical figure hobby's premier brand names.~~



A German officer surrenders and French female collaborators face harsh retribution

Diorama Marks D-Day's 80th Anniversary



Atlantic Wall German defenders on bluffs scramble into position as Allied landing crafts supported by an immense fleet offshore deliver assault forces to Normandy's Omaha Beach on D-Day Tuesday, 6 June 1944. That fateful day 80 years ago marked the beginning of airborne and amphibious landings aimed at liberating occupied France and advancing into Germany. Matt-painted 1/30-scale collectables from a host of makers breathe life into this dynamic diorama setting built from scratch by Dan Nance. He took inspiration from the movies *The Longest Day* (1962) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) to recreate how American GIs faced withering fire and took heavy losses, but their valour and adaptability resulted in victory. By nightfall, 34,000 US troops were ashore at a cost of 2,400 casualties. Dan's dramatic diorama is a fitting 80th anniversary tribute in miniature to the courage and sacrifices of all the Allied soldiers, sailors and aviators who served during that pivotal day and the aftermath in the war against Nazi tyranny. - Stuart A. Hessney



Mounted Plains Indians in winter blankets by White Tower Miniatures.



Springing into Action

George Phillips

provides a snapshot of some of the toy soldier collectables on offer at the London Spring Show.

Text: George Phillips Photos: Andy Whittaker

It seemed appropriate how sunshine was beginning to stream through the clouds over North West London as collectors arrived for the Spring Show organised by Guideline Publications on Saturday, 23 March.

Hosted at the Haverstock School, the event showcased a range of the hobby themes covered by the Guideline stable of magazines, including toy soldier collecting, aviation, military and sci-fi modelling, and fantasy gaming.

As ever, my mission at the show was to provide *TSC&HF* readers with a cross-section of some of the rare, eye catching or just downright cool toy soldier collectables on offer.



Matthew Thair of White Tower Miniatures.



Browsers crowd an aisle at the Spring Show.



Circa 1873 Canadian NWMP lancers by JJD were for sale from Grey Goose Collectables.

"I don't think I've ever seen miniatures of this type depicting mounted North American tribesmen on the move through the snow. They are very striking and would display well in a wintertime Plains diorama."

Winter Indians

Upon entering the Mountbatten Room, I immediately locked eyes with the colourful display of figures on the tables of UK based manufacturer White Tower Miniatures. The enterprise is owned by Matthew Thair and he produces 54mm metal collectables in a catalogue that mostly features Wild West and medieval-themed items, including a range dedicated to the legend of Robin Hood.

Of note to me at the show was a set of upper Plains Indians on horseback wrapped in winter blankets from the maker's

'Legends of the West' range. I don't think I've ever seen miniatures of this type depicting mounted North American tribesmen on the move through the snow. They are very striking and would display well in a wintertime Plains diorama. Matthew was selling the figures at £19 for an unpainted casting and £50 with a detailed gloss or matt paint finish. Other brand-new Wild West figures from the White Tower range are reviewed elsewhere in this edition.

Canadian Lancers

Opposite Matthew's tables was an eye catching display by Grey Goose Collectables manned by proprietor Clive Gande. Front and centre among the items were some recent new releases from Hong Kong based John Jenkins Designs (JJD). At first glance, I thought a group of four mounted lancers in red tunics and wearing a mixture of pillbox hats and pith helmets were British cavalry from the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. It turned out they were rough riding members of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), a paramilitary police force established in 1873 to maintain order in the Canadian West. The NWMP was eventually absorbed into the newly formed Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in 1920.

Today, RCMP riders use lances solely for ceremonial purposes. In 1873, during the NWMP's epic 900 mile 'March West' to establish its jurisdiction in the Canadian wilderness, riders with red and white pennons attached to their steel tipped lances flanked the column on both sides to make any hostile Indians think twice about attacking. Part of JJD's expanding 'Whisky, Scalps and Pelts' series, these cracking new 1/30 scale figures were priced at £103 each.

Ancient 'Tank'

Switching gears from North America in the late nineteenth century to North Africa and the Battle of Zama in 202 BC, Grey Goose also offered JJD's recently released Carthaginian African



The dramatic Carthaginian African forest elephant released by JJD.





JJD's new World War II German Panther tank is shown with some excellent Waffen SS troops produced by King & Country Ltd.



Show-goers could dig through boxes piled high with toy soldier items.

→ Forest war elephant crewed by two spearmen and depicted collapsing onto its haunches due to slashing Roman attacks to its rear legs. This highly animated piece would provide collectors with a superb focal point for a Punic Wars diorama with Roman legionnaires swarming around the diminutive stricken animal and its likely doomed riders. You can add this dramatic new piece to your collection for £200.

Lethal Cat

Fans of JJD's range of World War I German armoured vehicles will be thrilled by the release of a new late-war variant of the feared Panzer V or Panther tank. The type of medium tank this 1/30-scale model is based on had factory applied camouflage paint and saw action in East Prussia in January 1945. Armed

with a high velocity 75mm gun – one of the most effective main armaments of any tank in the war – the Panther was in use from mid-1943 until May 1945.

Connoisseur Paintwork

George Johnson, MBE, the Manchester based proprietor of ACE Miniatures, is a regular at the London shows organised by Guideline. He specialises in supplying hobbyists with high-quality castings from Eastern European makers in 54mm and 75mm scales.

My eyes were drawn to two connoisseur-style painted examples of figures by EK of Russia. The fine detail of the first, a Seven Years War era Russian drummer in distinctive green uniform, was embellished by the superb paintwork of artist

Painted and unpainted examples of the Hundred Years War French knight available from ACE Miniatures.



The EK casting of a Seven Years War Russian drummer is shown with an example featuring connoisseur-style painting done by Josephine Bryant for ACE Miniatures proprietor George Johnson.





Wintry ruined house by La Sarouche Diorama Bases.



Two mounted versions of Mussolini in ceremonial dress by Allotoys.

Josephine Bryant. Likewise, a dismounted Hundred Years War French knight had been given the same connoisseur style treatment. For avid figure painters, the castings were on sale for £14. For enthusiasts who prefer an expertly painted collectable, the price tag was £70.

Winter Diorama

Regular readers of *TSC&HF* will be familiar with the work of UK-based Jeff Goldsmith of La Sarouche Diorama Bases. A relative newcomer to the business, Jeff was doing a roaring trade at the March show with a nice selection of smaller scale scenic pieces.

Among them was a ruined house diorama with a base made from lightweight foam and decorated to depict a snowy winter setting. We managed to capture some shots of this diorama with 1/30-scale World War II German troops in winter camouflage added for extra realism before it was snapped up by a show visitor for a very reasonable £45.

Saimex Toy Soldiers

It's always a pleasure to see Stefano Allorini of Italy's Saimex Toy Soldiers at the London shows. This time he was showcasing some new 1/30-scale releases from his own Allotoys brand.

They included two eye-catching representations of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, known to his supporters as 'Il Duce', who served as Italy's prime minister from 1922 until being deposed in 1943 during World War II. Each version depicts Mussolini wearing varied ceremonial uniforms with steel helmets and the Fascist Party leader is mounted on a thoroughbred grey horse.

It's interesting how Stefano represents in miniature some of the key historical figures from →



A boxed set of large-scale Confederate Swoppet-style figures made by Nardi were offered by plastics dealer Steve Viccars.

→ his country's political past, These new pieces come in fine presentation boxes and are priced at £95 each.

Swoppet Rebels

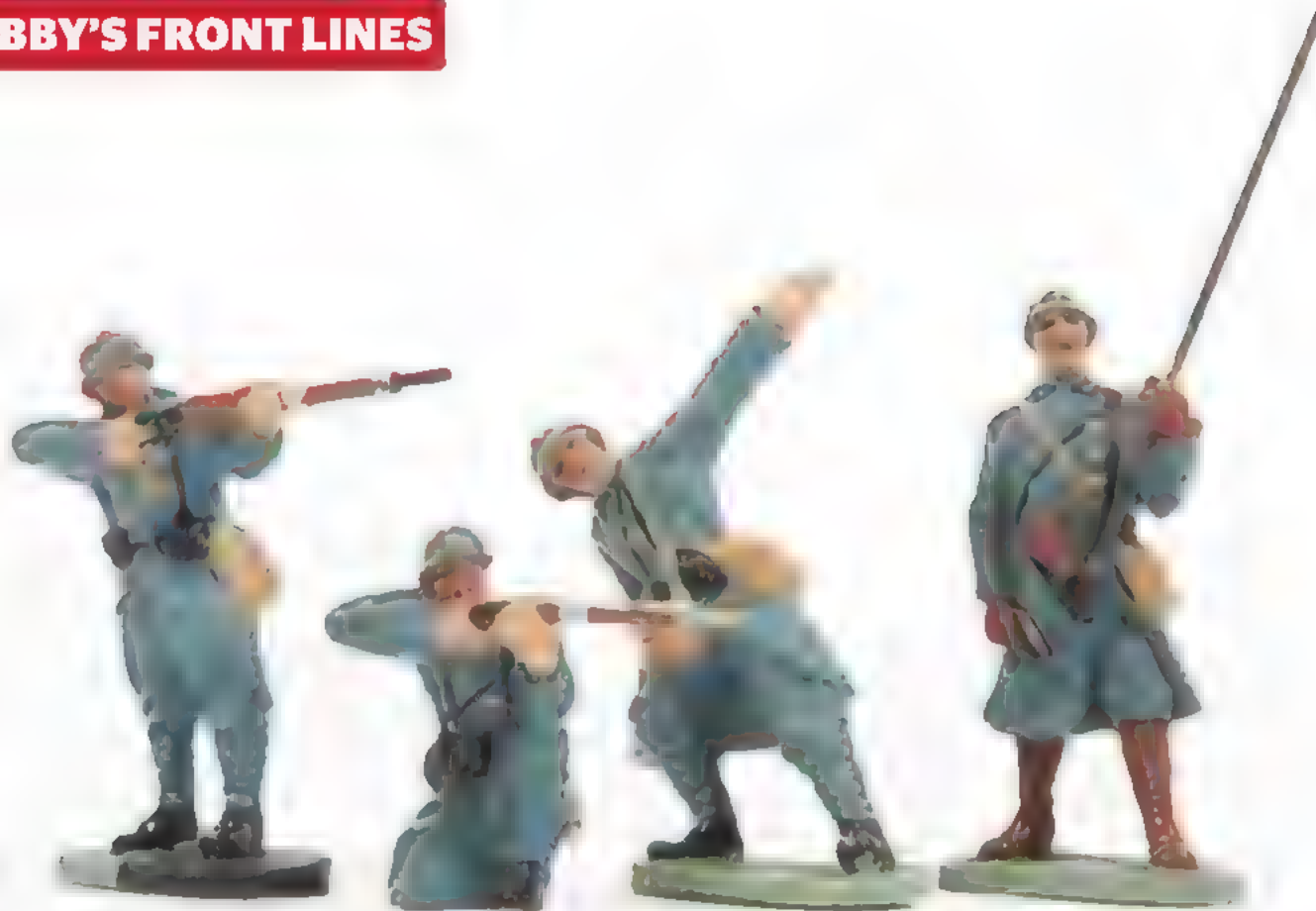
Vintage plastics collectors are always well catered for at the London show. For example, the tables of trader Steve Viccars are typically buzzing with hobbyists seeking to plug holes in their collections. Those interested in unusual, Britains Swoppet style American Civil War figures would have been fascinated by a box of Confederate soldiers that Steve had on sale that were produced by Nardi of Italy in the mid 1970s.

These figures must be at least 70mm in scale and tower over their 54mm Britains and Timpo equivalents! The set includes two mounted soldiers and a single infantryman with the packaging suggesting they were made from 'unbreakable plastic'. Having survived 50-odd years in such good condition, I wonder if the claim about the material in which they were moulded is true. This unusual piece was priced at £20.

French Poilus

Switching from 1970s plastic to 1930s composition, a set of 75mm World War I French infantrymen by Cellose of France was being sold by Adrian Little of Mercator Trading. The four figure set includes kneeling and standing firing figures armed with Lebel rifles, one soldier throwing a grenade and another holding both an automatic pistol and a wire pole to which a French flag would once have been attached.

Though nearly a century old, the action poses of the



Composition World War I French infantry by Cellose.

figures are very similar to more modern toy soldiers. Also, their uniforms retain a lot of their original horizon blue paint. This attractive set of collectables was on offer for £80.

Military Railways

Visitors to the March show were treated to a superb exhibition of World War II military trains in 1/30 scale from the personal collection of hobbyist Stefan Farrelly. He has a substantial collection of figures and vehicles from leading modern manufacturers including King & Country Ltd., Thomas Gunn Miniatures, and Figarti Miniatures.

Stefan revealed that his engines and rolling stock, including some transporting heavy howitzers and German V2 rockets, were produced by Figarti. Some 3D printed elements were added to enhance the display



Display of World War II military railway models from the collection of Stefan Farrelly.

In Closing

The Spring Show was well attended, indicating that multi hobby events might be a successful blueprint for Guideline to continue to follow

The next show London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show is scheduled for Saturday, 7 December, and it will be followed the next day by Guideline's London Plastic Modelling Show with both events at Haverstock School. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

TS&HF Contributing Editor George Phillips is an award winning features writer and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing. An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's interest in military miniatures was reignited 25 years ago and he has been writing for this magazine for sixteen months. He describes his "fascinating and rewarding" hobby as "a great escape from the real world".

Enthusiasts prowl the aisles in search of must-haves for their collections.



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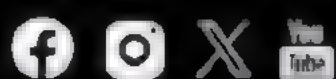
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Semper Fidelis, a Latin phrase usually shortened to *Semper Fi* that means 'always faithful', was adopted as the US Marine Corps motto in 1883 to signify their loyalty and dedication to duty and honour.

Semper Fi

Stephen Dance profiles the late John Farrell, a Brit who served in both UK and US military forces, and he describes the recent BMSS auction of the veteran's collection.

Text: Stephen Dance Photos: Debra Dance and Nigel Baynes

Ever since it was founded in 1935, the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) has arranged members only auctions of lead toy soldiers and model figures together with associated accessories, spare parts and other items. These sales generally run to around 200 lots. They are usually cobbled together from surplus items submitted by various members, but occasionally we have the privilege of offering for sale single owner collections

On Friday, 15 March, the BMSS auctioned an interesting single owner collection formed by the late John Farrell, a long standing member. It featured a 54mm mix of old metal toy soldiers by Britains and other makers, New Toy Soldiers, and military vehicles.

Members who successfully bid for lots at BMSS auctions do not have to pay a buyer's commission. This is a significant incentive to look seriously at what is on offer.

UK and US Service

John Farrell was born in Woolwich on 1 February 1936. The English town has venerable military associations because it was home to the Royal Artillery and the Royal Arsenal, a huge facility which provided munitions for the armed forces of Great Britain. As a young man, he joined the British Army in 1954. John served with the Royal Armoured Corps and later joined the Special Services Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. He saw active service with them during the

Malayan Emergency guerrilla war.

Military life was clearly to John's liking. After meeting some members of the US Marine Corps and French Foreign Legion during his travels, he decided to spend some time pondering his next move. John finally decided to travel the USA and joined the USMC in 1959. He signed up with his boyhood friend, Michael Dwyer, also of Woolwich.

John's jungle and counter insurgency experience was quickly put to good use while serving as a USMC

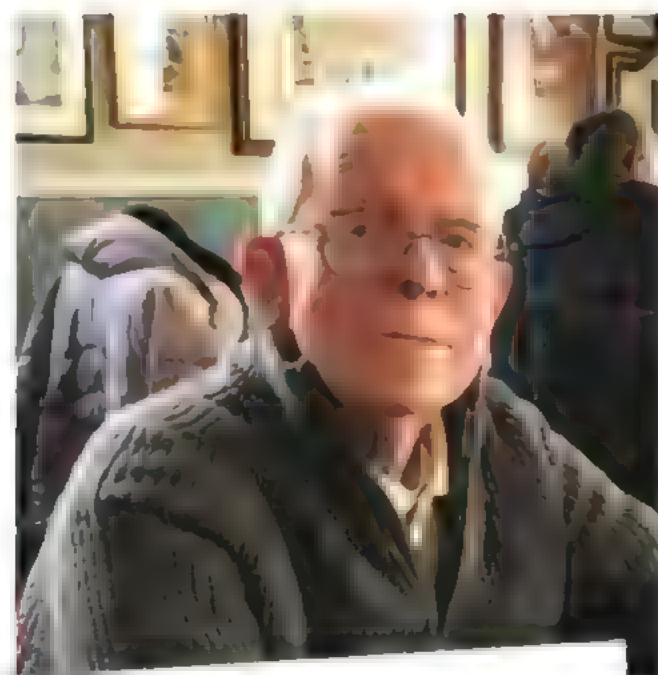
representative at the US Army Jungle Warfare School in Panama. He would later remark that he was very lucky to spend the best part of two years on horseback. When the US became involved in Southeast Asia, John did several tours in during the Vietnam War first as a helicopter crew member and then as a forward air

controller, working with infantry for months at a time to ensure air support was properly co-ordinated, often using a radio to talk pilots into the strike zone, thus ensuring that 'hot' passes secured the right results on the ground. His son, Nigel Baynes, told me that John received several awards for bravery in action.



Brit John Farrell is proudly pictured in his USMC uniform. He retired from the Corps as a master sergeant.

Later in life, BMSS member John Farrell enjoys a quiet drink at an English pub or restaurant.



John Farrell with colleagues serving in Antarctica. He stands at far left and sports a moustache. A military transport aircraft serves as a backdrop.



Lot 1 in the Farrell auction staged by the BMSS featured a vintage Britains lead Royal Engineers pontoon section. The illustrated label on the original Fred Whisstock box was quite black when first received, but careful attention with a soft pencil eraser restored it to its original appearance. It sold for £120 to a dealer.

Harrowing Experience

A flavour of John's experiences in Vietnam is provided by some old newspaper cuttings held by Nigel. A seven man US Marine reconnaissance patrol got into trouble when it entered a complex of huts. A helicopter was called in to pick up the wounded, but it encountered heavy ground fire. The chopper crashed, killing the crew chief and the door gunner. The pilot and co-pilot were wounded.

John flew in another chopper into the valley and it hovered at 100 feet to hoist up the wounded co-pilot. By then, however, the North Vietnamese soldiers had found the range and poured in a heavy and accurate fire on the hovering helicopter. It started to drop, hitting the trees and then turned over. John, his co pilot, crew chief, door gunner and the wounded man managed to get out. The chopper's heavy calibre machine gun and several pistols were rescued from the ship before it burst into flames. The enemy was closing in.

Despite heavy fire, another helicopter came in and was able to pick up John's crew chief, who had a broken leg. There were now five men on the ground from the two downed helicopters. The North Vietnamese came

within fifteen yards of them as Farrell's door gunner blazed away with his .45 automatic. The group included the badly wounded major who had piloted the first chopper shot down. The survivors moved down the slope to put more distance between themselves and the crashed aircraft.

At first light on the next day, American sky raiders plastered the area around the group with napalm and 500lb bombs. A fourth rescue helicopter flew into the valley shortly after 09:00. The badly wounded major was hoisted up first, then the other four men followed, two at a time.

Antarctic Mission

Around this time, John also had the opportunity to go to Antarctica. He was one of only four US Marines to serve with some 400 Navy personnel. Working as an aviator and radio operator on K-130 Hercules refuelling aircraft, John did two tours in Antarctica as part of the US Scientific Research Program in 1968.

Afterward John was assigned to a teaching role at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in California's Orange County. His next posting took him to Cherry Point in North Carolina and his final posting was to Okinawa.

John stayed with a Hercules refuelling squadron until his retirement from the

Marine Corps. John retired from the USMC with the rank of master sergeant.

Then he moved back to England in 1979 to be with his wife June and son. As a civilian, he took a job with Ready Mixed Concrete and then Hales Containers until retirement.

John passed away after a short illness at age 87 on 22 May 2023.

Impressive Collection

John valued his BMSS membership and expressly asked for key elements of his model soldier collection to be shared with members of the Society after his death. When BMSS Treasurer Paul Newman and I first viewed John's collection at the invitation of his son Nigel, we were astonished

by the number of figures and vehicles he had assembled, many of them literally crammed into glass display cases that he had constructed himself. The figures were, for the most part, in lovely condition. As I went through the collection, I was amazed by how few breakages there were. He must have been a very careful collector.

John also must have been a forward looking collector because he had made a point of carefully preserving the original boxes for sets that he had acquired. These were kept separately from the figures. Nigel and I faced something of a challenge in matching boxes to the figures in the display cabinets. Assembled in a large pile on the kitchen table, the



Auction lot 79 was a superb Anglo-Boer War British traction engine and wheeled open wagon by Trophy Miniatures of Wales Ltd. This set sold for £140 to a dealer.



Lot 80 was an Anglo-Boer War British howitzer and crew produced by Trophy. In some publicity literature, this is shown being hauled by the traction engine and wagon. It sold for £70 to the same dealer who purchased lot 79.





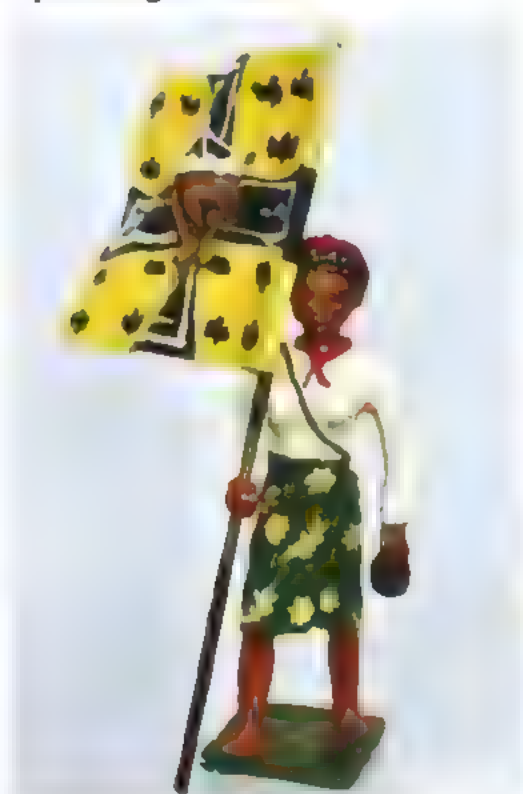
Writer Stephen Dance paid £180 for lot 81 featuring Trophy's beautifully presented British field artillery gun team at the halt representing the Anglo-Boer War.



Nostalgia Models Set N1: 'Hong Kong Submarine Engineers, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession, 1897'.

→ boxes which Nigel had found scattered around the house took some time to go down, but we got there eventually. Since John was a devoted veteran of the USMC, it was not surprising to find that a good number of the lots offered at the March auction depicted members of the Corps. Metal USMC colour parties featured in lots 14 and 63 manufactured by Britains and Ducal, respectively, the latter being a UK maker of New Toy Soldiers. Full USMC bands featured in lots 62 and 70. The first of those, made in metal by Ducal, consisted of no less than 43 figures and fetched £90, while lot 70 was from the Britains plastic Eyes Right range of regimental models with 24 figures. Both depicted USMC bands in their colourful red uniforms with white trousers and peaked caps and would be a fine addition to any collection.

Set N60: 'Tulia, Samoa, 1898' by Nostalgia Models.



Lot 71 contained 38 plastic Eyes Right US Marines in blue tunics marching, including six officers with swords.

Although I didn't meet him personally, I am impressed by John's strong sense of purpose in building up the varied collection he had reflecting both his interest in the USMC and his wider interests in military history. From what his son told me, John bought vintage figures from sources such as the BMSS and toy soldier fairs, but it was also evident he had been a keen mail order customer of firms that made and retailed New Toy Soldiers.

Nostalgia Models

The late Shamus Wade's glossy Nostalgia Models range seems to have particularly appealed to John. The sale included 38 lots (15 52) issued under the Nostalgia banner by Wade, a well known dealer in vintage toy soldiers. He was very interested in the military units of the British Empire and

Commonwealth that fought alongside British regulars in many conflicts. Wade thought that too many of these units had been forgotten or pushed to the side lines of history. Many of these units had taken part Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession in 1897. What a sight these exotic units must have been to a British public immensely proud of the Empire.

The BMSS auction featured Nostalgia Set N1: 'Hong Kong Submarine Engineers, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession, 1897'; a colour party formed by Set N20: 'Ludhiana Sikhs, Review Order, Without Packs, 1897'; Set N57: 'Gaunt's Red Caps, Samoa, 1898' and the related female flagbearer listed as Set N60: 'Tulia, Samoa, 1898'; and Set N98: 'The Maharaja of Gwalior and the Bera Ekkan, 1861'. The latter marches on foot and depicts the ruler with seven other ranks from his regiment of irregular Maratha cavalry raised in 1833

who supported British forces during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

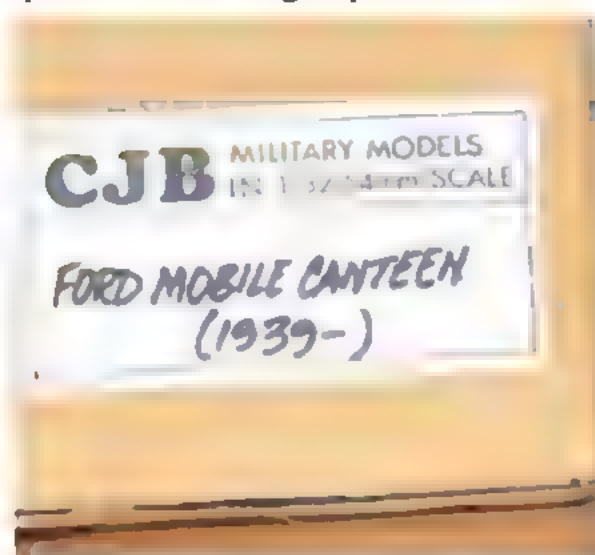
A number of Nostalgia police and constabulary sets were also auctioned. These figures, mainly on foot, were generally in sets of eight including an officer, British or native. Wade had consciously chosen to sell them in sets of eight as this meant they could comfortably stand alongside Britains toy soldiers, though he did offer single figures to collectors who wanted bigger units. On the night of the auction, these eight-figure sets fetched between £20 and £80, with Indian groups doing particularly well.

Given the scope of his Nostalgia holdings, it seems more than likely John was a subscriber to Wade's range who received sets as they appeared.

CJB Vehicles

John was also a keen collector of CJB Military Models, which are beautifully

Lot 112 in the BMSS auction was a boxed British 'Ford YMCA Mobile Canteen' made by CJB and complete with two female volunteers inside. The lot included six soldiers in greatcoats that John Farrell used to depict a queue for tea. This group sold for £130.





Lot 118, which sold for £85, featured a boxed CJB 'Beaverette' light armoured car evidently so named in honour of Lord Beaverbrook. The set includes a machine gunner, driver and one standing man in battledress and steel helmets.

fashioned representations in 1/32 (54mm) scale by Colin Burkill of British Army military vehicles of the period between the two World Wars, when Britain was faced with a growing threat from Nazi Germany.

There were twelve CJB lots in the auction (lots 110-121), mostly with their original, albeit rather plain, cardboard boxes, drivers, passengers or other personnel. These models, which were clearly a labour of love, are particularly convincing and go well with battledress figures.

The lots ranged from a 'Field Wireless Car' (lot 110) to a 'Ford YMCA Mobile Canteen' with a removable roof and side flap revealing female volunteers serving tea and refreshments to troops (lot 112), a six-wheel 'General Service Truck' (lot 116), and a

'Beaverette Light Armoured Car' (lot 118).

In my experience, it is relatively rare to find many of these on offer. Prices ranged between £85 and £130. It is said no two CJB vehicles are alike since they were made to customer specifications.

Greenwood & Ball

It would have been an oversight to miss out on Greenwood & Ball figures that made up lots 83-89. They mainly depicted British officers in full dress standing with sheathed swords. The quality of the painting on these is quite extraordinary particularly where kilts and other uniform details are concerned.

I remember seeing these models as a youngster when visiting the Soldier Department of the famous

London toyshop Hamleys. They were eye-wateringly expensive! At the auction they ranged between £50 and £90.

Irish Ties

Although born in England, John was very conscious of his family's links with Ireland. He was interested in Irish regiments in the service of the British Army as shown by several of the auction offerings, notably lots 106-109 made by Asset Miniatures. There were line infantry and bandsmen of the Royal Irish Regiment marching in red tunics and spiked helmets, a similar group of bandsmen of the Connaught Rangers (a regiment disbanded in 1922) and a very attractive Rifles band in dark green uniforms with black gloves and equipment. These were

probably meant to represent the Royal Irish Rifles and were bought by a collector for £70. In addition to the items offered at the BMSS auction, John had a considerable number of boxed King & Country Ltd. sets and figures with a particular focus on armoured vehicles and US Marines. Those, together with quite a quantity of toy cars and military vehicles by Dinky, Solido and other makers were separately consigned to Vectis Auctions Ltd.

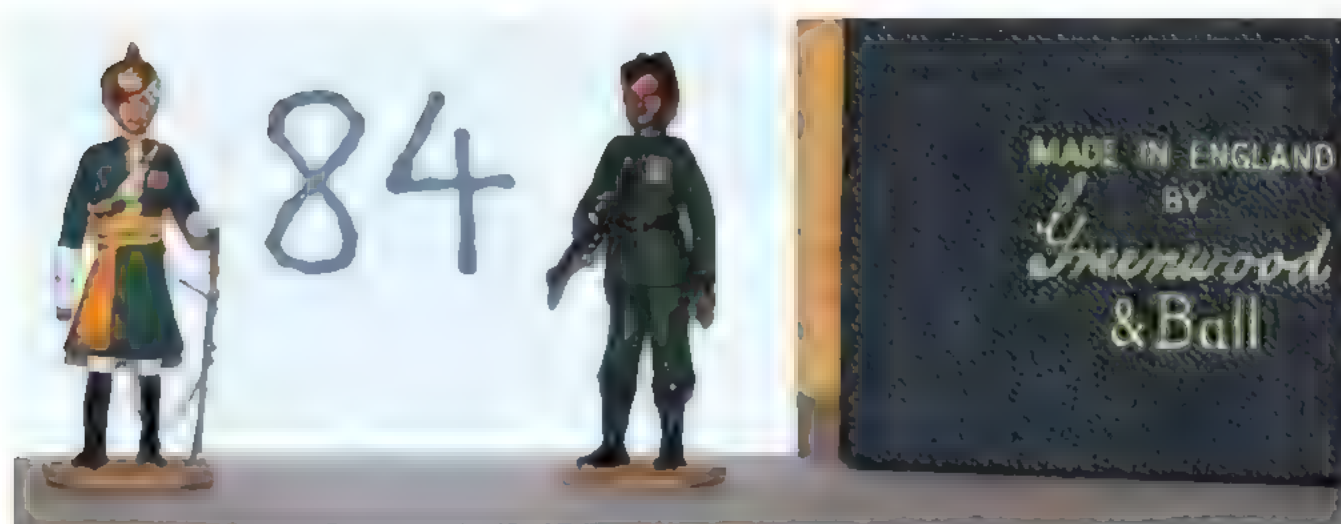
Some of the items must have been bought during John's period of service with the Marines both in the US and overseas. It is interesting to reflect on his priorities while on furlough. While many of his military comrades might have sought out more sensual pleasures, John was no doubt trawling local toy and model shops to find interesting pieces for his growing collection. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Stephen Dance is currently the BMSS archivist and a past president of the Society. He has been passionately interested in model soldiers since childhood. His interests embrace both vintage toy soldiers and the more detailed offerings of model makers, past and present.

Stephen's family has military connections in that his paternal grandfather, George Dance, broke in horses for the 19th Hussars on the North-West Frontier of India. His father, Staff Sergeant A.V. 'Reg' Dance, was a first pilot on British assault gliders during World War II, notably the Horsa. Unlike their American counterparts, British glider pilots were expected to fight once they had landed their loads. During the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944 (Operation Market Garden) the staff sergeant helped defend the Oosterbeek perimeter and was severely wounded by a shell burst just as British forces were starting to withdraw. For his marked flying skill, determination and gallantry Reg was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM).

This article could not have been produced without the greatly appreciated cooperation of the late John Farrell's son, Nigel Baynes. He provided photographs of his father. The writer's wife, Debra Dance, shot photos of the BMSS auction lots illustrating this article.



Lot 84 featured Greenwood & Ball finely painted figures of a British officer in full ceremonial dress of the 1st Hyderabad Lancers and a green-clad soldier of the 6th Gurkha Rifles. They sold for £90 at what seemed like a bargain.

Auction lot 87 was a boxed Cameron Highlanders officer by Greenwood & Ball that sold for £90.



Salute to **Bill Cranston** (1932-2024)

Mick Ford salutes toy soldier craftsman William Cranston, his long-time friend and inspiration.

Text and Photos: Mick Ford

It is with great sadness that I must report that toy soldier maker William Cranston, 92, my close friend and inspiration for more than 40 years, died on 3 April at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford. Bill's ability to create 54mm figures was second to none. What he could do with a soldering iron and a scrap of brass wire was unquestionably the epitome of toy soldier manufacturing.

The late Bill Cranston visits Hougoumont Farm on the Waterloo Battlefield in Belgium around 24 years ago.



Army Service

Bill was born in Aldershot in 1932. He came from an Army family background so much so that he joined the ranks. In the early 1950s, he enlisted as a drummer boy in the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers.

Bill served in West Germany, a Suez Canal Zone crisis in Egypt during 1952 and Kenya during the Mau Mau rebellion. He transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps and concluded his service in Hong Kong as a sergeant.

Bill then joined the Civil Service where he held a number of managerial positions. One of his ambitions was to be retired longer than he had worked in his civilian profession. This he doggedly achieved!

Imaginative Modeller

Bill and I served for a number of years on the national committee of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS). He gained a reputation for perhaps being the most imaginative and inspirational toy soldier modeller of his generation. Bill's ability to create any genre of figure, his use of colour, his attention to detail and the unique manner in which he posed his figures brought him a considerable fan base not only from hobbyists in the UK but around the world.

Bill gained inspiration from numerous sources, including the many visits to the sombre and evocative battlefields and military museums of France and Belgium that we made together. He had a particular fascination for World War 's Battle

of Verdun and the French Army, but his forte was making Indian Army figures that were readily snapped up by collectors. His sets came in boxes bearing the primrose insignia of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Bill would come up with an idea for his next creation often something avant garde – and simply make it. This in turn would inspire collectors to request commissions which he readily undertook.



Boxed sets of Uruguayan infantry and military school cadets.



Circa 1870 French Army canteen wagon with a cantinier serving the troops.



Mexican *Rurales* on horseback circa 1870.



British Army Service Corps wagon and personnel circa 1910.

Interestingly, Bill seldom painted eyes on his figures. He thought they were unnecessary because the figures were small and usually were only viewed from a distance. Instead, he would darken the area around the eye sockets slightly. Bill now has gone to his final roll call. I have lost my pal and the hobby has lost a superstar! END

Old West cattle drive in Fort Worth, Texas, USA.



ABOUT THE WRITER

Writer Michael Mick Ford first met Bill Cranston at a monthly meeting of the Essex Branch of the BMS in 1981. It was a very active branch with a number of extremely capable model makers and Bill was at the pinnacle. The members took part in many competitions both local and national and since Bill didn't drive, Mick took him. This led to a long lasting and close friendship. Bill was an inspirational writer to Mick, pushing him to create many figures in his mentor's style. Mick has often been told Bill would be a great figure maker if he had started with the use of solder and brass wire and he was leaving that knowledge to the world.

Belgian Grenadiers with a dogcart bearing a machine gun circa 1914.



French Dragoons horse-drawn mitrailleuse circa 1914.

Scottish Castle Façade Project



Half of the castle façade enhances the Scottish tattoo display in the left cabinet.

Michael Mason details how he built a castle façade backdrop for toy soldiers recreating a Scottish military tattoo.

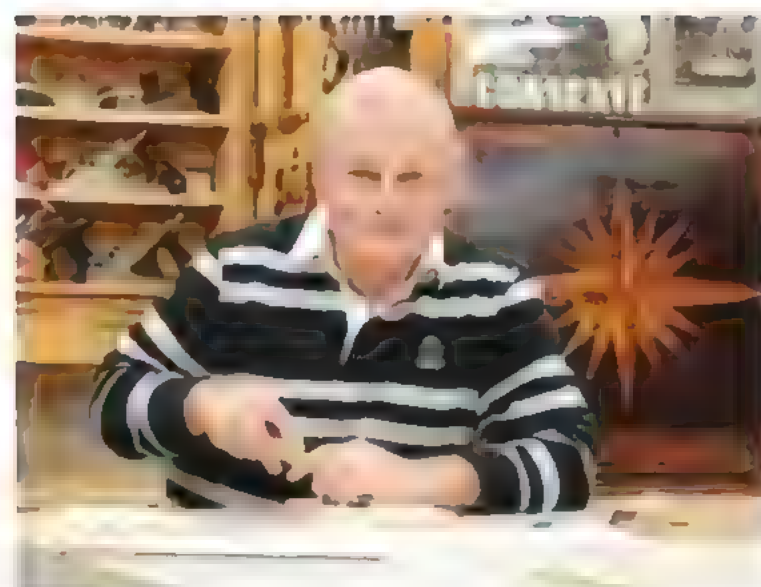
Text and Photos: Michael Mason

My relatively modest collection of 54mm figures is housed in a pair of identical glass display cabinets placed side-by-side. A depiction of a Scottish military tattoo featuring 150 figures on parade spans two adjacent shelves, with one shelf in each of the two cabinets.

By themselves, the figures are colourful and draw attention, but they seemed to lack context without scenery. To enhance the display and provide a sense of scale, I created a wooden castle façade to serve as a backdrop.

The façade totals 68in long and 13in tall, which scale wise equates to 180ft in length and a height of 35ft. The castle backdrop is divided into two 34in pieces with one placed in each cabinet.

I hope sharing my process for designing, constructing, carving and painting a scenic castle façade inspires and helps fellow hobbyists.



Mike Mason at work on his castle façade project.

Design Plans

I chose to work with wood rather than plastic, resin or plaster. The first step was to create a design in the same scale as my 54mm (1/32-scale) figures. Since my display would be a military tattoo, I wanted to incorporate battlement architecture reminiscent of the Middle Ages, specifically the use of crenellation along the rooftop parapet, arrow slits in the towers and arrow/gunports on the first floor.

I began by researching how castles were constructed and found that entire treatises

have been written about the subject. One could build an exact replica, but for a display with toy soldiers I felt that it was important that the design should not be overly fussy so as not to overshadow the figures.

The design I created is not a rendition of any particular castle, but rather a combination of elements that I found visually pleasing as a whole. It features three stories, a rooftop defensive platform, five towers, two entryways and a central courtyard with large two story windows. Since medieval builders did

not have the technology nor the desire for large glass windows, the most common practices were to incorporate wooden interior shutters or to simply hang heavy fabric on the inside to keep out much of the wind and rain.

In my design, the windows and doorways are framed by stone arches with keystones at the top. Windowsills are single slabs of stone. The walls are comprised of randomly shaped angular fieldstones of various sizes. The doors are wooden planks joined together. The roofing material is slate shingles.

Castle Construction

The type of wood used is important. I chose basswood because it is easy to carve, has a tight grain that will hold carved detail, is readily available and relatively inexpensive. Poplar could be a reasonable second choice, but don't attempt to use balsa (too soft to hold detail), pine (too stringy to carve), maple (too hard to carve) or any open grained wood such as red or white oak (open pores will impact both carving and painting).

In my case, the 13in height required me to edge join



Scottish toy soldiers parade past the castle façade in the right cabinet.



The process of creating the left and right-side castle façades from basswood gets underway. The cross-grain construction prevents the towers from being glued to them.



Windows, doors, arrow slits and arrow/gunports are roughed in.



Roofing details, crenellations, arched windows and doors are carved.

pieces of basswood. The façade weighs 10lb.

The main façade is only ½in thick, but thicker is fine. The ½in thick towers attached to the front of the main façade provide a 3D appearance and serve as 'feet' to prevent the backdrop from tipping forward.

Readers might notice that the horizontal grain direction of the main façade is at right angles to the vertical grain direction of the five towers. Because of this cross-grain construction, I did not glue the towers to the main façade since with seasonal changes cracks might develop (wood only expands across the grain, not along the grain, with changes in moisture content). Instead, I loosely screwed the towers to the main façade from the back after enlarging the holes drilled through the main façade to allow seasonal wood movement.

Using a soft lead pencil, I lightly laid out the locations of all windows, doors, crenellations and other details directly on the basswood. I also marked out roof details on small pieces of wood and glued them in place.



→ Carving Work

I hesitate to categorise this as a carving project since it is relatively simple and requires just a few carving tools and no prior carving experience. The primary carving tool needed is a V-gouge that used extensively to carve the stones, arches and doors. I also used a flat chisel to form the slate shingles.

It is important that your carving tools be kept razor sharp to avoid fuzziness in the carving. If you buy a quality V gouge, you should only need to hone it occasionally during the carving process. Use a honing compound applied to either a strop designed for V gouges or a short length of basswood shaped to fit inside the V.

I didn't draw any details of the stones on the façade. Instead, I simply carved appropriately sized stones of random shapes as I went along. Note that the roof shingles are carved into the basswood, not individually placed shingles.

Painting Process

I chose to use various shades of grey to paint the façade so the colours didn't clash with or draw attention from the figures. I used a sequence of fast drying acrylic paint, clear polyurethane and slow drying oil paint in that order.



Details added include stonework, arched windows and a door complete with a woodgrain effect and a peephole.



Stonework, arched arrow slits and other details are added to an end tower.

I painted the windowsills and window and door arches with a light grey acrylic paint and the roof shingles in a slate grey colour. I didn't paint the doors, relying instead on a few coats of clear polyurethane.

The most time consuming part of the painting process was the painting of the stones, of which there are a few thousand. I started out by painting about 20 per cent of the stones with a medium grey acrylic paint while spacing them out somewhat randomly. Don't worry too much about getting paint in the carved joints between stones, as this will be addressed later. I then mixed either white or black acrylic paint with the medium grey acrylic paint to create another



Progress is reflected by about 40 per cent of a tower's stones being painted in their first and second shades of acrylic paint.

shade of grey then randomly painted another 20 per cent or so of the stones. I repeated this process a few more times, mixing a new shade of grey each time. I also highlighted a few stones here and there with a much darker shade. When the paint was dry, I applied two light coats of

One tower is completed while the rest of the components are about 20 per cent painted.





The left and right-side castle façades are completed.

Close-up of details on the left-side façade.



Painstaking detailing enhances the right-side façade.



clear polyurethane over the entire piece. After the polyurethane was completely dry, I thinned a light coloured artist's oil paint to create a wash the consistency of cream. I brushed this wash over the entire piece, working it into all of the carved joints between stones.

Oil paint is slow to dry, so you have plenty of time to work. Gently wipe off oil paint from the surface of stones, arches, sills and other elements while allowing it to remain in the carved joints. If you should wipe it off too

aggressively in spots, simply add more wash. Wait until the oil paint is very dry, which can take a week or more, before applying a final coat of clear polyurethane to protect the oil paint wash coat.

Adding this backdrop greatly improved the appearance of my Scottish military tattoo display. The process I used to create mine is well within the skill level of any collector.

Next up I plan to create an appropriate building façade for my 1903 Delhi Durbar display! **END**

ABOUT THE WRITER

Author Mike Mabey has a background in engineering and recently, after more than twenty years, is president and CEO of a manufacturing company. He has a modest collection of primarily W. Britain 54mm figures, which he keeps on display in a pair of matching glass cabinets. Mike resides in Wisconsin with his wife, Mary, and their two miniature Schnauzers.

The two façades are placed side by side on a table to plan the placements of the toy soldiers.





American West

James Opie saddles up to survey figures of cowboys and Indians inspired by the Wild West.

Text and Photos: James Opie

My Gran was instrumental in encouraging me to pursue my toy soldier collecting as far as I was able. Now I help keep her memory alive by exhibiting a group of gauchos in my family shelf. I found them on a stall in Grey's Antique Market, and they were made in Argentina. Not many of them have ever made their way here, and Gran sadly died before I found them. An Argentinian correspondent of mine told me that they are well regarded in their home country and was loathe to part with any of those in his own collection.

My grandmother on my father's side was brought up on a cattle ranch from her birth in 1888 until 1900. She told me of her father's estancia, located between Buenos Aires and Rosario. Essentially, her simple but pleasant life as the boss's eldest daughter was exactly the same as anyone else's in the same situation at the time in the grasslands north or south of the equator in the 1890s, simply with gauchos rather than cowboys.

Novels and films tend to concentrate on the American Wild West and post-Civil War era when immigrants were flooding into the territories from east to west and setting up enterprises ranging from Texas to Montana. The land was peopled by cowboys, Native Americans, pioneers, outlaws, gamblers and snake oil salesmen, many of them with no fixed abode. Thirty-five years later, barely a generation, with the turn of the century, the core period that inspired the Western genre was nearly over, but the drama lived on.

The same explosion of adventure and lawlessness was taking place around the world as industrialisation and colonialism ran amok ahead of liberalism and democracy, but enough of grand and provocative generalisations. My great-grandfather made his pile on the Argentine pampas and in 1908 came back to England to retirement as a landed gent. In the same year, Britains issued its first painted metal North American Indians, closely followed by cowboys, and the childhood games of pistols and tomahawks began.

Frontier Fandom Starts in 1950s

In the 1950s, film studios produced more Western movies and television programmes than all other genres put together. This was at exactly the

time when rapid technological advances were bringing diecasting, aluminium and plastic toy soldiers into competition with traditional solid and hollow cast figures.

My own first encounters with

figures depicting the Wild West included a number of very early Crescent self coloured cowboys moulded in a very brittle plastic around 1950. At around the same time, I was gifted a box of

Wend-Ai Indians at Christmas. Neither of these made it to my top ten favourites at the time, but I was beginning to enjoy the B feature cowboy films at our local cinema that were almost invariably on



These figures include some of the aluminium Indians that I was gifted as a child. Some years later I thought that the woman needed a makeover, so I painted her with a set of gold-braided white buckskins. Next to her is a Quiralu original female that has come out of the sand mould with better defined features. One Indian holds a rectangular object in the air. I have never known what this is supposed to represent – maybe some kind of medicine charm?



These attractive 58mm Indians produced by BMC circa 1921 were superior to the Britains product on foot at the time. The varied poses include an iconic crawling brave, a scout shading his eyes from the sun and chiefs with movable arms provided with either a rifle, tomahawk or knife.

offer with whatever the main movie was.

After I started to collect seriously, I had to decide whether to include or exclude the Wild West from my game plan on the basis that effectively all the participants were civilians rather than soldiers. By that time, and from then on, decided that the gun culture that prevailed in the Old West fully justified inclusion, as did the hold that Western dramas had on my own imagination and that of many millions of others.

So, I have more than a shelf full of Westerners, and it is now my intention to share



The BMC Indians box was certainly the best on the market during this period with its lid liberally provided with colour paintings.

→ them with readers. The hard part is choosing my favourite ones. To make the selection even more difficult, my British Model Soldier Society friends and I decided to have a Zoom meeting last February on the same subject, and a number of them contributed pictures to the slideshow that are just begging to be included.

Early Figures

UK based Britains was not the first maker of Western figures. Cowboys and Indians were on offer in the ranges of just about every toy soldier maker that ever came into existence.



The Sutton Indian is a larger size than the Britains 54mm fixed-arm chief, and it has a movable arm wielding the tomahawk. At first glance, the shape looks very similar, helped by the almost identical colouration, but the Sutton chief is walking along, while the Britains one is standing still. Did Sutton feel that the success of Britains lay in the colour of the clothing? It certainly looks like it.



I have the impression that Heyde found it difficult to distinguish between African natives and its No. 2 size American Indians at first, especially in the shields they gave them. Later issues replaced the African-inspired shields with the normal round shape.



Right at the start of production of Britains Set 152: 'North American Indians on Horses' the five figures all came from the same mould dated 6.2.1908. They entirely made up for the immobility of the foot figures by being at full gallop and balanced on a base in the same manner as the British Household Cavalry officer. The normal colouration was two in red jackets and one in yellow with tomahawks wielded in movable arms, with two in green jackets carrying rifles. Come to think about it, American Indians were renowned both for their stern passivity at rest and their furious charges in battle, so I suppose we ought to award Britains full marks for both.

Quite quickly, in 1914, Britains took advantage of the creation of its mounted Arab to make a similar figure for the Indians. The colouration and weaponry in Set 152 changed and eventually settled down as three on Arab-style horses with tomahawks, two with green shirts and one with yellow, and two on the initial style of horse with red shirts carrying rifles.

Collecting all of the variations and colour schemes of Britains cowboys and Indians can provide a fascinating cameo with plenty of unusual colour and arm variations to be found alongside the standard colours.





The Johillco playset is opened up to reveal bronzed Indians with a colourful scenic background. (Cattermole Collection)



Johillco's boxed 'Scenic Playpacks' were a rare new attempt to add extra value. (Cattermole Collection)

Mignot of France could well have been the first, but if that was the case, then Heyde and the other German solid cast manufacturers would not have been far behind. Elastolin was certainly producing composition 100mm Wild West figures early on.

By 1914, all major manufacturers of toy soldiers had brought out figures for playing cowboys and Indians. In the H.G. Wells book *Floor Games*, published in 1911, 'The Game of the Wonderful Islands' includes one inhabited by American Indians. Since Britains had not produced 54mm cowboys at that point,

there aren't any shown.

Still cowboy toys already existed in France and Germany at that time. After World War I when toy soldiers rather fell out of fashion, cowboys and Indians prospered. Britains probably produced some of its larger Wild West sets immediately after the war to spearhead its export drive into America

The Bronze Age

Following World War II in the late 1940s and the 1950s when the popularity of the Wild West theme was at its peak, there was a vogue among some hollow-cast figure makers to paint their Indians' skin in a metallic reddish bronze finish that was very distinctive and really quite extraordinary. I will leave readers to look through my gallery of pictures to see what an interesting cameo this is to collect. I don't think that this style of Indian spread outside the UK (let me know if you know differently). During this period, packaging and poses became ever more diverse and competitive. →

Bronzed Indians from many manufacturers.





War dance with bronzed Indians by Johillco. I have only seen the figure at left once in the John Ruddle collection. (Courtesy C&T Auctioneers)



It is my belief that these two figures by a new designer were the last two ever made in the Britains second-grade quality. The cowboy was ref. 154P and the unique bronzed Indian ref. 155P. I acquired them at the sale of the Richards Collection. The only other ones I have handled were in the Stuart Saxe collection. This cowboy is also shown by author Joe Wallis in a picture of the half Set 2145: 'Cowboys, Mounted and on Foot' first issued in 1957 that appears in his book *Regiment of All Nations: Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1946-66* first published in 1981 and revised in an all-colour edition in 2011.

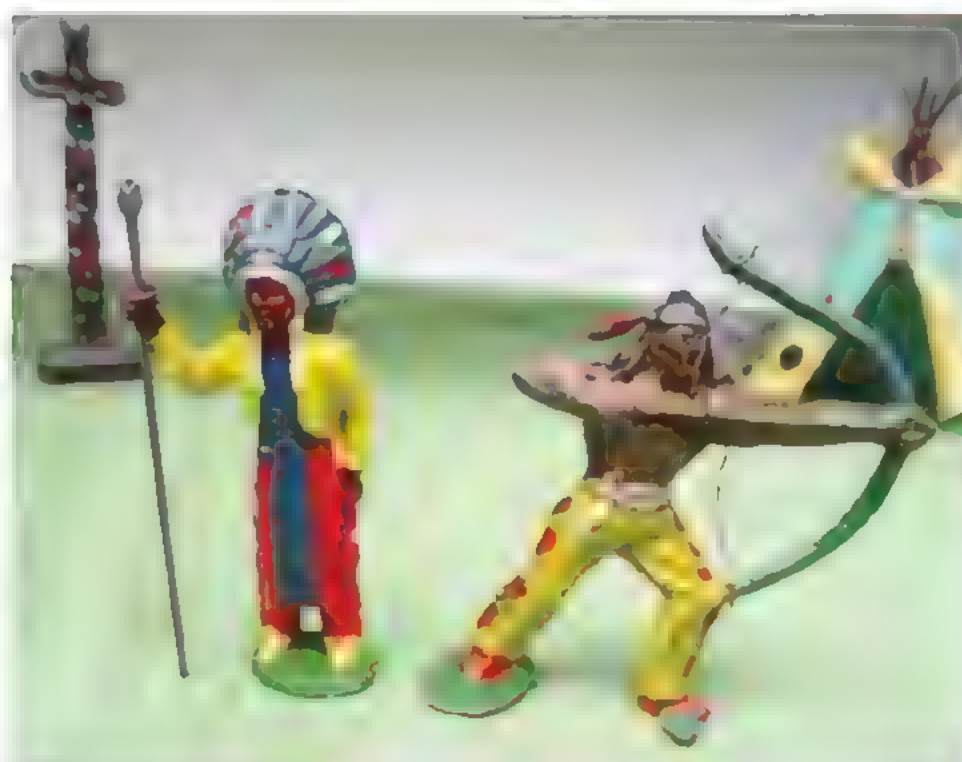
It would be good to know just why they are so rare. Norman Joplin lists the mould as having been made in 1953, but I have never seen any second-grade boxes containing them. It might well have been that under the hail of plastic figures coming out from 1953 onwards, they got buried by the competition. I'm not even sure that many shops ordered two or three dozen of individual metal figures much past 1953.

These two figures certainly stand out in a number of ways from their predecessors. The cowboy is the first Britains figure to wear twin holsters and a hat with curled up edges. The Indian has succumbed to the bronze skin fever and it is the only Britains Native American figure to ever do so.

→ Triggerman Math

By 1903, Westerns at the cinema had already settled into their swiftly traditional plot of 'crime, pursuit and retribution'. Whatever else was in the plot, the main aim of the action was to have heroes and villains of whatever stripe shooting at each other, and the faster the better.

The model makers obliged with every conceivable pose wielding every weapon of the period painted in the most colourful country hues. The absence of uniformity gives the genre much of its



As usual, Timpo provided superior poses and decorations, but even it was sucked into the vogue for bronzed Indians.

Canadian Mounties seem to be wondering whether it would be wise intervene in a feud between Elastolin cowboys.





The Benbros cowboys were a cut above most other models, with the possible exception of Timpo. The sheriff and his deputy have got the drop on a couple of bank robbers, although the ducking bandit holding the bag seems to hope his surrendering accomplice will distract the lawmen long enough for him to make a run for it

charm. The cult of the gunman looms far and wide. This was no game where it didn't matter that you were faster on the draw. It was about whether you lived or died. It nearly always came down to individuals, gangs or a posse. Let your guard down and that was it. Yet the main actors in the historic reality were relatively few. The Wikipedia listing of famous gunfighters has just 251 names, including lawmen, outlaws and people who had tried both.

To get some idea of how this compared with the number of men they were spread among, I looked up the 1890 census of the fourteen states and territories between the Midwest and Rockies and added up their populations to 6.6 million people. Half of those would have been women. Of the 3.3 million men, a third would have been under or over the age for gunfighting, leaving 2.2 million men of whom only 251 were gunfighters of any renown.

The best available estimate for the number of cowboys around at the time was 35,000. Most of the rest were simply people who wanted to settle down and were prepared to stake out a home plot, build a house and scratch out a living as best they could, just like my great grandad who built his *estancia* with his own hands and those of his employees.

In the next instalment of 'Talking Toy Soldiers', I plan to delve into the Indian Wars, rodeos, the Wild West in plastic, Swoppets and expansions of the American frontier. END

The final metal cowboy ref. 154P in green stands out in complete contrast to earlier Britains that normally wore yellow, blue or pink. Occasionally black, green or red shirts were used in larger boxes or on mounted figures, but these are tendencies rather than written in stone. Britains' first cowboy on foot was a walking figure with a movable arm holding a rifle. Eight of these were used in the first version of Set 183: 'Cowboys on Foot' in 1914. In this group, the earliest made 'pistolero' is the one on the right, a new model introduced around 1916, and replacing four of the riflemen. The other three are fixed-arm figures that featured in various new sets as the Wild West series evolved.



ABOUT THE WRITER

James Opie has written several books about toy soldiers, he has also edited the *Military and Aviation Book Society* for decades. He has also prepared toy soldier auction catalogues for 45 years. Currently at CST Auctioneers. James is also on the National Committee of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS). He welcomes email correspondence on any toy soldier topics at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk



New Toy Soldier maker Sarum Soldiers made this evocative group of the fatal occasion when Wild Bill Hickock forgot his own advice never to sit with your back to the door.

Fantastic Plastics

Kent Welch covers collectable plastic figures.



'The British are coming!' The complete 21-piece set produced by BMC Toys.

BMC Toys

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

Kent Welch reviews makers' latest and greatest plastic figures to be released into the hobby for collectors.

Reviewed by Kent Welch

As summer settles in, many families make trips to sites that are significant to their history. In the United States, that often means travelling to significant sites related to the American Revolution or Civil War. VictoryBuy Inc., parent company of BMC Toys, has produced a perfect plastic set tied to one of the classic stories of the Revolution: Paul Reeve's midnight ride.

Colonial Unrest

By 1775, Britain was anxious to end simmering unrest in its Thirteen Colonies. It was decided to use British troops based in Boston in the Province of Massachusetts Bay to make a surprise strike into the countryside to capture several of the rebellious Patriot leaders and hidden munitions. It was thought that by eliminating these rebel leaders, the growing insurrection would die.

However, the Patriots were ready for such a move. They used lanterns as signals to alert their men and then sent multiple riders into the night. Their vital mission was to warn the Patriot leaders that 700 British regulars were coming.

One of those riders was Bostonian Paul Revere. The passionate Patriot snuck out of Boston by boat, borrowed a horse and headed into the night to spread the word. Revere only accomplished part of his mission before being captured by British officers along the road. However, due to him and other riders, the warning got through. The next day the



Sam Adams and James Otis plot rebellious mischief.

Three kinds of plastic are used in this set.



Paul Revere spurs his horse Brown Beauty into the night to warn Patriots, 'The Redcoats are coming!'



British troops found that the Patriot leaders had fled ahead of them and there were very few war materials to seize.

Then things got worse for the Redcoats. The alarm had been spread far and wide, and angry Patriots were rallying for action. Confronted by Colonial militia called the Minute Men, the British troops continued to advance and shots were fired. Soon outnumbered, the British Regulars found themselves in a running battle and retreated to Boston. The American Revolution had begun with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Middlesex County on 19 April 1775.

Revere was later released and had a long career as a Patriot. Yet he did not become an American icon until years later when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published his poem 'The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere'.

Marx Moulds

BMC has introduced the 21-piece 'The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere' set as part of its 'Classic Army Men' series and it uses original Marx toy soldier moulds. The 1/32-scale figures are plastic and well produced.

There are seven American Revolution character figures, all from the Patriot side. From actual history there are plastic portraits of James Otis, Sam Adams and Paul Revere. Adams and Otis were famous Patriot leaders and were the targets of the British troops. Revere is the only mounted figure. He is in action shown shouting his warning as he gallops down a road. The historical figures also include Brown Beauty, the borrowed horse that Revere used to spread the word of the oncoming danger.

The other figures are included as civilians. They were based on the fictional book and movie *Johnny Tremain*. The book was very popular beginning in 1940s and Marx made sets to capitalise on that interest. There are character figures of Johnny, Rab Silsbee and Cilla. These three figures are not

Patriot leaders consult a map to track possible British manoeuvres.



The passionate Patriot snuck out of Boston by boat, borrowed a horse and headed into the night to spread the word. Revere only accomplished part of his mission before being captured by British officers along the road. However, due to him and other riders, the warning got through.

part of the actual Paul Revere story but fit in well with the set. Victory/Buy owner Jeff Imel related, "This set is designed to serve both the toy and hobby markets. It's good for school diorama projects, and also as an add on to any 1/32 scale Revolutionary War playset."

All seven figures are made of LDPE powder blue coloured plastic and are flexible. Brown Beauty is a rust brown colour and made from polypropylene plastic. All of the detail on these figures is very crisp and a testament to how well the original Marx moulds were made. BMC has been careful in the production of these figures and there is minimal plastic flashing.

Accessories Included

The new set includes several items that can be used in play or to complete the scene. These items originated in Marx sets. BMC includes a spinning wheel, a rocking chair, a regular chair, a table with documents on it, two benches, three stools, two lanterns, a cooking kettle, a horse hitching post, three stacked muskets and a stretcher. All of them are produced in dark grey HDPE plastic.

All these accessories complement the set nicely except the stretcher. The Johnny Tremain figure can grip one end of the stretcher for carrying, but there is no one to hold the other end. Additionally, there isn't a casualty to go on the stretcher.

Classic Figures

Collectors who plan on painting them or just leaving them unaltered will appreciate these classic figures. Scale wise they would work well with LOD, A Call to Arms or similar lines of American Revolution plastic figures. For Marx fans, this is a chance to get several classic figures newly moulded and at a great price.

Two figures moulded in blue from the new BMC set are shown with a pair of British regulars by A Call to Arms for comparison.



'The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere' bagged set by BMC.



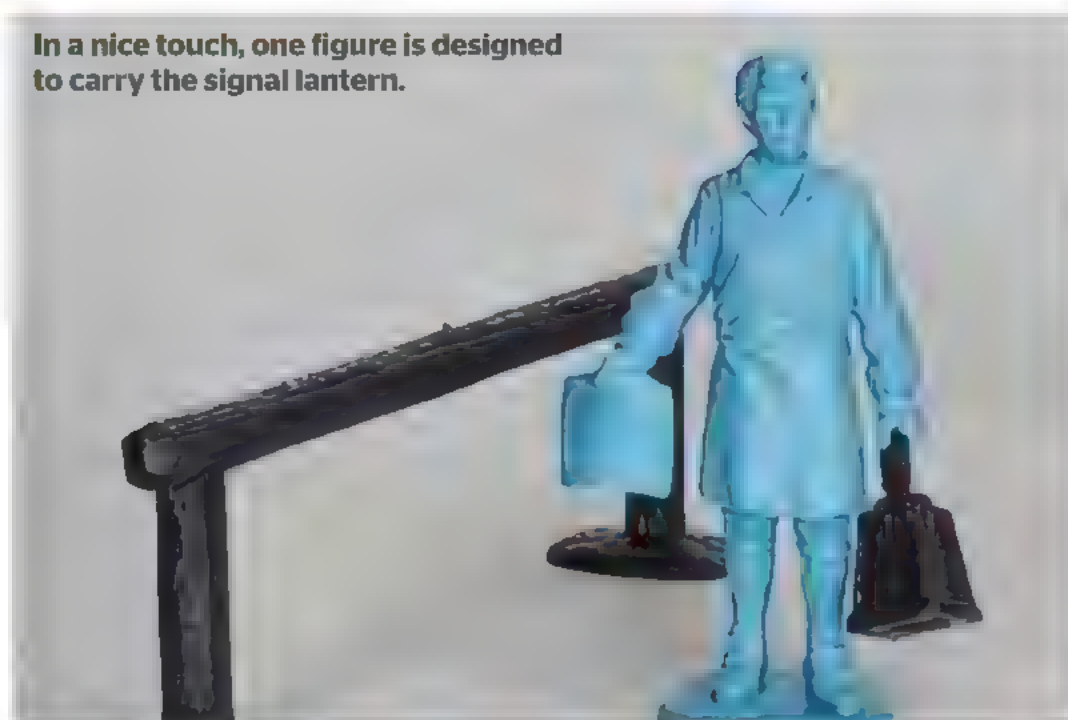
→ This set comes in a clear plastic bag with a simple package description insert page. VictoryBuy always aims to bring buyers great figures at reasonable prices and this set is no different. Like many of the maker's other sets, this one meets all requirements for it to be sold as a children's toy. This set sells for \$16.90 US, making it far more accessible than newer plastic sets that sell for five times that amount. This means that while adults can buy the set to paint or have fun with, they could also get it for a child. In a single, affordable bag there is everything you need to introduce a child to the fun of plastic toy soldiers.

On the back of the description page there is an explanation of the history behind the figures (something I think many modern toy soldier companies miss out on). This explanation page allows an adult buyer or a child to learn about the figures and hopefully sparks an interest in history. Appropriately, these figures were all produced in the USA. "We spent a lot of time on the story," Jeff said. "I felt it was important to provide a factual representation of events contrasted to the more commonly understood legend of the event."

So, if you are looking for a great gift for a child, seeking a fun set to paint and/or play with or just hoping to plunge back into the danger days of the Revolution, 'The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere' is a great set.

My thanks to Victory Buy/BMC Toys for providing a set for review. **END**

In a nice touch, one figure is designed to carry the signal lantern.



Paul Revere warns folks that British regulars are on the march.



In a single, affordable bag there is everything you need to introduce a child to the fun of plastic toy soldiers.



Paul Revere spurs his horse Brown Beauty into history.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

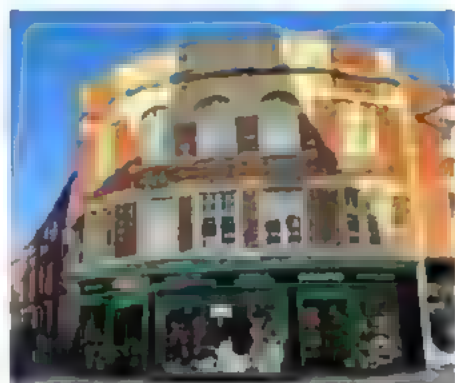
American Kent Welch is a long-time Britain's Deetail plastic figures collector. He works in marketing and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Julie and their dog Roxy. He is one of the Collector Guys with multiple platforms devoted to collecting, collectors and their collections. Readers can check them out at Collectorguys.com, TikTok, Instagram and on YouTube under 'Collector Guys'. Enthusiasts can talk to him about toy soldiers at Deetailcollector@gmail.com.

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PLASTIC APPEAL

Plastic toy soldier manufacturers and traders are invited to send figures in for review. Please direct enquiries to the editor at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com or reviewer Kent Welch at kentwelch01@gmail.com



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Model Figures

David Grummitt reviews new unpainted resin and plastic figures and kits.

Wars of the Roses

By Ragged Staff Minis

Reviewed by David Grummitt

One of the wonderful benefits of the world of 3D sculpting and printing is the ability to produce the same figure in a variety of scales to appeal to different groups of hobbyists and collectors. Martin Brook of Ragged Staff Minis is a well known wargamer, best known perhaps for his collection of medieval 28mm figures (see his '7th Son' YouTube channel).

One of Martin's main interests is the Wars of the Roses fought over the English throne, and he offers a few beautifully sculpted and animated 28mm figures for this period. One of them is 'The Impatient Heir', a figure depicting a young aristocratic man-at-arms, wearing full harness and armed with a characteristic poleaxe. What makes Martin's figures so special is the careful research that underpins each one.

He explained, "This model has been so much fun to work on with the amazing sculptor Marcos at Reconquer Designs. The inspiration behind the armour comes from the amazing tomb effigies of Sir Ralph and Nicholas Fitzherbert in Norbury, Derbyshire. The armour has a very distinctive English style from the latter half of the fifteenth century. Having visited earlier in the year and taken hundreds of pictures and using other references (including the fabulous work by Tobias

Capwell in his volumes on *Armour of the English Knight*) for the model, the sculpt has really captured the details."

Martin has made 'The Impatient Heir' available in a larger scale for collectors. The figure stands 60mm from head to toe, making it compatible with similar-themed ranges from John Jenkins Designs and others.

As you can see, the quality of the print is first class and, as a historian of the period, I can vouch for its historical accuracy. I am currently painting the larger figure, having previously finished a 28mm version of 'The Impatient Heir' for my wargaming collection. You can keep up with news from Ragged Staff Minis from its Facebook page and order the figure via its Etsy store.



The 54/60mm version of 'The Impatient Heir'.



The 28mm version of 'The Impatient Heir' and another of Martin Brook's Wars of the Roses figures, 'The Watchful Lord'.



My version of 'The Impatient Heir' in progress, painted with Vallejo and AK Interactive acrylics.

CONTACT

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ICM

Ukrainian Tank Crew

Reviewed by David Grummitt

The latest figure related release from Ukrainian maker ICM again represents the men and women of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who are engaged in their nation's heroic struggle against Russian aggression. 'Tank Crew of the Armed Forces of Ukraine' (ref 35756) contains four tank crewmen occupied in the everyday task of maintenance. The Armed Forces of Ukraine boast a variety of tanks, both former Soviet era models and newer Western-made types, such as the M1 Abrams and Leopard 2.

Despite the abundance of modern anti tank weapons, tanks remain a formidable force on the battlefield. They are utilised by the Ground and Air Assault Forces, the Marine Corps, and units of the National Guard.

A tank crew must function as a cohesive unit, as the success of

combat missions often depends on the teamwork and coordination of its members. Therefore, the crew must understand each other implicitly. Depending on the type of tank, the crew consists of either three or four soldiers: the commander, the driver-mechanic, the gunner operator, and if necessary, the loader.

During the repair of combat vehicles, crews from other tanks or repair unit personnel might be called upon for assistance. In heavy combat on various fronts, Ukrainian tankmen bravely fulfil

their military duty, skilfully leveraging the three key combat qualities of the tank: armour, firepower and manoeuvrability. Our thanks to ICM for the product information. This set will be available from good model shops from 23 May.



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MiniArt

Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

MiniArt's 1/35 scale civilian figures are superb and the ideal complement to many military themed dioramas and vignettes or simply as a standalone project. 'Modern Café Visitors Set 1' (ref. 38085) follows on from the maker's similarly themed 1930s 40s set.

The set consists of three figures: a waiter serving drinks, a rather suave looking man drinking an espresso and a charming young lady happily scrolling through her social media feed on her smartphone. It is a scene repeated every day across Europe! The three figures are included with a set of appropriate café furniture for an instant vignette or to be

incorporated into a larger street scene.

For military modellers, one of MiniArt's most versatile sets, 'British Tank Crew' (ref. 35332), has been re-released as a 'special edition'. It contains five figures with two wearing 'Pixie Suits' and three in overalls. The commander wears a leather jerkin, while two of the figures are depicted in helmets and three in berets. The heads, of course, can be swapped out for suitable replacement resin ones.

The kit's 'special edition' status is gained by the inclusion of a sprue of MiniArt's excellent British small arms. The figures are ideal for depicting British



tank crewmen in north west Europe or Italy from 1944 during World War II until the early 1950s.

Our thanks to MiniArt for the product information. Its kits are available from all good model shops.

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Building and Painting Campaign Miniatures' Sherman Tank Model



David Grummitt

uses some basic techniques to get the best out of the excellent new resin kit.

Text and Photos: David Grummitt



As we noted in the last issue of *TSC&HF*, this 1/30 scale World War I M4A3 Sherman tank comes from Campaign Miniatures, an exciting new venture from Hudson & Allen Studio, a division of W Britain Model Figures. The Campaign Miniatures series offers collectors the opportunity to add highly detailed resin kit figures or models like this armoured vehicle to their displays at a fraction of the cost of pre built and painted items.

'The Sherman M4A3 Medium Tank' (ref. 70001) is the perfect choice to launch

this innovative new line. The M4 Sherman is probably, along with the Soviet T-34, the most iconic tank of the twentieth century. More than 50,000 Shermans were produced in the USA between 1942 and 1945 and they soldiered on in various armies into this century.

They fought on all fronts during World War II and played an important role in the US, British, Canadian, Soviet and other Allied armies. While outgunned by contemporary German tanks and under-armoured against the enemy's mighty Tiger and Panther tanks, the soundness

of the basic design, its mechanical reliability and the skill of its crews, not to mention the sheer numbers that rolled off the production lines, ensured that the Sherman played a key part in the eventual victory in Europe.

The M4A3 was powered by a Ford GAA V8 petrol engine. Some 1,690 were produced by the Ford Motor Company between June 1942 and September 1943. The variant saw extensive service in north west Europe with the American and British armies and on the Eastern Front with the Red Army.

Getting Started

This new kit will appeal to modellers and collectors alike. Its main components are flawlessly cast in grey resin, while the gun barrel is turned metal.

As the instructions say: 'This model is simple to assemble but by no means is it a simple toy. It is a highly detailed historically accurate model kit - with all the clean-up and prep already done so you get to the fun of painting and detailing right away.' As someone who has built many plastic and resin kits through the years, I can say with confidence

1



that the novelty of this last point should not be underestimated. There are some 70 parts included in the kit, but most of them are small hull details such as various handles, pioneer tools, hatches and brush guards. The most complex part of any tank, the suspension and tracks, come as two stunningly simple assemblies (**photo 1**). These then simply attach to the lower hull. The detail on the turret and upper hull is superb and the crispness of the casting is the equal of the best military model kits.

The instructions are very clearly drawn. They suggest that assembly begins with attaching the beautiful tracks and suspension to the lower section, but I would recommend leaving these until the end to facilitate painting and weathering. I only made one improvement to the kit. I thought the cast texture on the turret and transmission

cover was a little understated, so I stippled some Gunze Sangyo Mr. Surfacer – a sort of liquid putty that comes in various viscosities – over these areas with an old brush (**photo 2**). The driver's hatch on the front hull can be made workable by the simple expedient of a resin part (F) to create a hinge. I'm not sure if they are suitable figures available at present, but I'm sure collectors will be better informed than I am. There are options for two styles of commander's cupola: early with a split hatch and a pintle mount for the .50cal M2 but without vision blocks, and late with vision blocks and a single hatch. If you choose the latter, as I did, you will also need to remove a small nub from the turret roof and drill out a new pintle mount (recommended at step 5 in the instructions). With care the main gun can be rendered moveable, just go sparingly with the cyanoacrylate glue.

2



The remainder of the assembly consists simply of attaching the various hull details. At the front, this consists principally of the gun travel crutch (GG) and the various lights and their brush guards. On the engine deck and hull sides, this includes the various pioneer tools. I left these unattached at this stage as it's easier to paint them and then mount them on the painted tank rather than trying to paint and weather them in situ.

One thing to note is the tow cable (MM). This has beautiful resin eyelets, but unfortunately the cable is in a rather unforgiving steel. This means it can't be bent to a realistic shape (although annealing, the process of heating it to red hot over an open flame, might make a difference). I also found it too long to fit convincingly as recommended in the instructions. I ended up removing the steel cable and replacing it with a Karaya

brass one I had in my spares box. This can be bent easily to shape, but a length of nylon thread, perhaps soaked in a PVA glue solution, would also be a suitable replacement for the tow cable included in the kit.

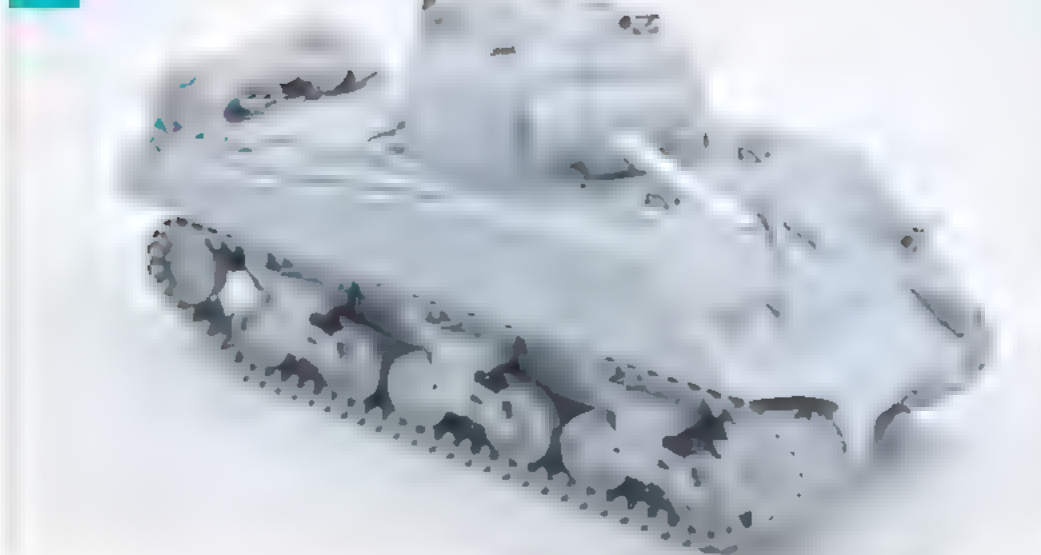
I also had the 'M4AS Tank Stowage' (ref. 70005) set of resin accessories. The items here are superb and, as well as two large collections of tarpaulins, kit bags, jerrycans and ammunition moulded as single pieces, the set contains individual jerrycans, ammunition boxes, oil cans and crew helmets. As time was pressing, I simply added one of the large resin pieces to the rear deck, and hopefully I can paint and add some of the other accessories in due course. The model was now ready for paint (**photos 3 & 4**).

Olive Drab Paint

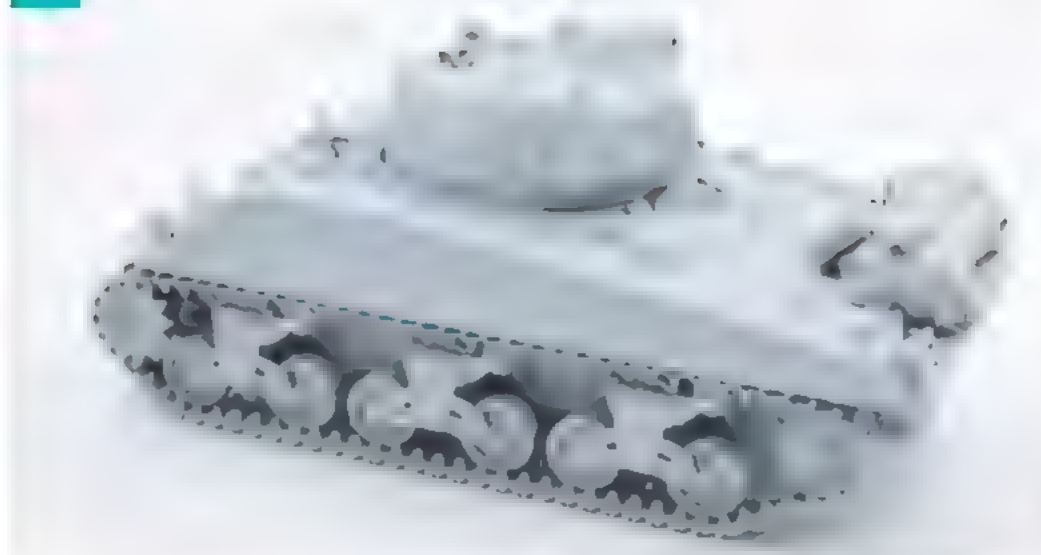
You really have only one colour choice for a US Army M4A3 from World War I



3



4





→ – Olive Drab. Occasionally black disruptive camouflage was added to tanks in the field and vehicles were occasionally whitewashed in wintry conditions, but all US military vehicles were painted Olive Drab. Quartermaster Color 22 as the shade was officially known, had been used on US military vehicles since World War I. The pigments used to mix it were very simple: black and ochre. QM Color 22's formulation changed several times through the years, but not the specification. In other words, the colour remained the same but there were some variations that made it look different to the human eye, such as a gloss finish. In view of the likelihood of US combat involvement in the widening conflict, on 12 October 1940 the Quartermaster Corps issued orders that all new material under procurement should be painted in lustreless Olive Drab Quartermaster Color

No. 22 as it had been in the previous decade. At the time, many US Army vehicles had a glossy finish (this was same QM Color 22 but with a darker appearance because of the glossy finish). There were also other names for the same colour, such as Color No. 9, which the Corps of Engineers came up with. The Army Air Forces also had its own version called USAAF Dark OD, which was darker than QM Color 22.

To modernise the old Specification 31 and consolidate all the colours the services were using, Specification 31F/Color Card Supplement (Rev 1) established 72 standard colours and basic finishes, becoming official on 21 April 1943. Olive Drab was known as Army/Navy (AN) 319 in the new specification, and it was the same colour as the US Army Ground Forces (AGF) QM Color 22.

After the war, the paint standards were updated

again and the AGF Olive Drab became Federal Standard 34087. Different paint manufacturers have slightly different shades of Olive Drab, but personally I don't get too hung up on this. Dirt, dust and many other factors can change the appearance of a military vehicle.

When painting a mixed media kit like this, it's important to first apply a primer coat. You can use an automotive primer from a rattle can, but I airbrushed a coat of Vallejo's Black Surface Primer (74.602) (**photo 5**). I prefer black as a primer coat because it gives a nice shadow to the finish. I didn't want to the finish to be too dark though, so then I airbrushed White (70.600) to the upper surfaces and sides of the vehicle (**photo 6**).

Next up was the all important Olive Drab. Vallejo's Olive Drab (71.043) is as good a match as any, and this was airbrushed over the model allowing some of the black to

show through in the areas of deepest shadow. I then added some Earth Yellow (71.291) to the airbrush cup to create some areas of highlight on the top of the turret and hull and to add a gradient on the front glacis plate and sides of the tank (**photo 7**).

The kit provides a very full sheet of decals with unit codes and vehicle names alongside the white star recognition markings. I wanted to model a generic M4A3 from early in the Normandy campaign 80 years ago, so I just applied large white stars to the sides of the turret and hull and transmission cover. The decals are admirably thin and went on with no silvering simply by pressing them down firmly with a wet cloth and ensuring no tiny air bubbles were trapped underneath. This was especially important on the turret where I had added some additional texture and the curves made placing the



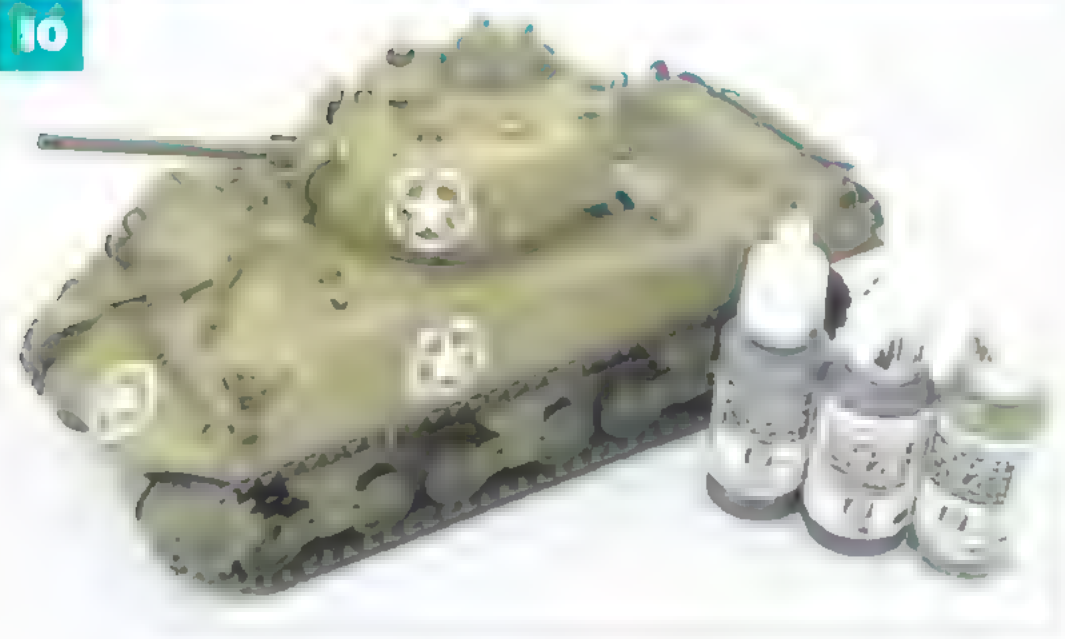
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decal a little more difficult (**photo 8**).

The next stage was to add a 'pin wash' around the various details and to really define the shape of the tank. There are lots of enamel-based and acrylic solutions available for this task from the various paint manufacturers, but I simply mixed some Lamp Black and Abteilung 502 Wash Brown (ABT080) oil paint with some odourless thinner. First, I wetted the area with a little odourless thinner (this eliminates the risk of unsightly tide marks)

and applied the wash around details with a thin, pointed brush (**photo 9**).

Every tank in the field picks ups scratches, scrapes and paint chips. The extent of this is a source of controversy among armour modellers, but I like the effect, so I added various scratches and paint chips with Vallejo acrylics. I first painted the scratches and scrapes in with a lighter shade of green and then added deeper scratches and chips within these shapes with a very dark brown (**photo 10**). This gives a

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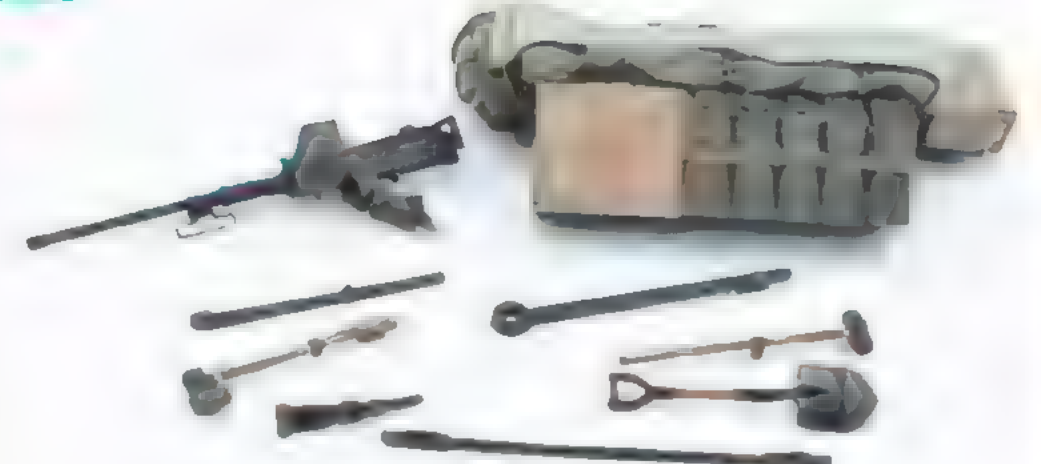
really nice three dimensional appearance to the tank and marks it as a combat veteran! With that done, I set about adding some dirt and dust effects to the tracks and lower hull. My method for this is straightforward. First, I airbrushed heavily thinned coats of Tamiya acrylic Flat Earth (XF 52) and Buff (XF 57), allowing the overspray to creep up the sides of the tank hull, the rear engine deck and the transmission cover (**photo 11**). Then, using some MIG Productions pigments - in this case Europe Dust (PO28) and Gulf War Sand (PO37) - I heaped dirt deposits on the suspension and lower hull. Next, I used Pigment Fixer, just touching a brush soaked in the liquid to the pigments, to fix them permanently to the model. You can use odourless thinner or white spirit for this, but the pigment can be brushed away when dry (which, in itself, can result in some realistic effects).

prepared a solution of these pigments in thinner and washed this over the tracks. Once dry the rubber tracks pads were dry brushed with AK Interactive's 3rd Gen Acrylic Rubber Black (AK11027). Finally, I used an ordinary lead pencil to add some metallic sheen to the track connectors (**photo 12**).

The tools, M2 heavy machine gun and the resin stowage were all painted separately using various acrylic paints from Vallejo and AK Interactive before being attached to the model. The rear stowage simply rests on the stowage rack, allowing you the option to swap between the various moulding contained in the set (**photo 13**). These were attached to the model at this point, as was the very fine and delicate aerial (a resin base topped with a steel aerial). With that, I called the model done!


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→ The Next Level

I used some pretty basic techniques in painting and weathering the wonderful Campaign Miniatures M4A3: an airbrushed basecoat with added shadows and highlights; a pin wash; chipped and scratched paint effects; and dirt and dust effects added with pigments.

There are many different techniques you can use to realistically paint and weather armour models. If you are interested in taking your painting and weathering techniques to the next level, then do check out *Military Modelcraft International*, Guideline Publications' best-selling military modelling magazine. In the June issue, out now, Spanish modeller José Luis Lopez Ruiz, shares his techniques for painting and weathering Olive Drab with a wartime M4A1 Sherman.

The next level! Weathering armour models is an artform in itself as José Luis Lopez Ruiz shows in the current issue of *Military Modelcraft International* with this M4A1 Sherman.



Final Thoughts

The Campaign Miniatures Sherman is a wonderful addition to any collection of World War I US armour. The kit is thoughtfully designed and beautifully presented and the perfect starting point for a collector wanting to branch out into this side of the hobby. Construction is straightforward and, with the slight exception of the tow cable, there are no hidden or nasty surprises. With a few easy-to-apply painting and weathering techniques you can soon add an eye-catching centrepiece to any display of wartime US soldiers.

The tank kit retails for \$160 US and the accessories kit costs \$35. 



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Primarily focused on figures around 1/32 scale (the traditional collectable 'Toy Soldier' size) the magazine also covers larger kits and smaller (down to 40mm) figures. TSC&HF encompasses in-depth reviews on all recent releases within the hobby of toy soldier collecting, from the 'high end', pre-painted museum-quality metal figurines through to the unpainted plastic figures still played with today by both children and adults, and of course everything in between.

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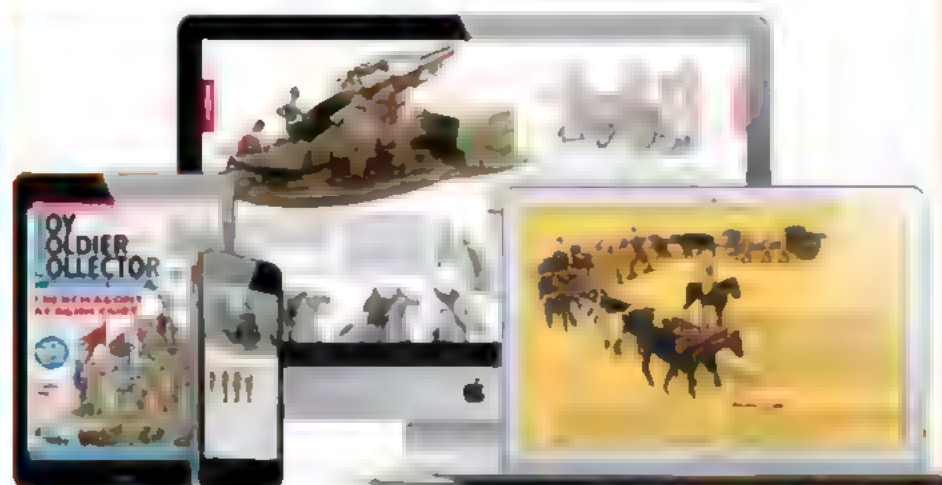
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A Look at Books

Our reviewers check out some new books that might pique the interest of hobbyists and history buffs.

The Wars of the Roses: The Medieval Art of Graham Turner

ABOUT THE BOOK

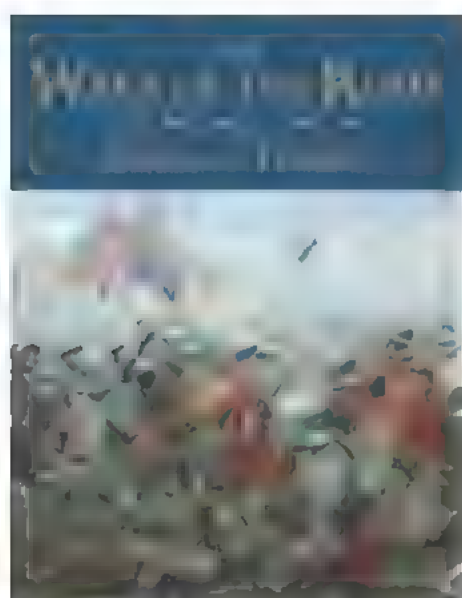
Author: Graham Turner

Published by: Osprey Publishing

SBN: 978-147284728-7

Price: £35/\$50 US

Reviewed by David Grummitt



Anyone with a passing interest in the military history of the Wars of the Roses – the intermittent series of rebellions against the English crown that punctuated the mid-fifteenth century and ended with the accession of Henry V, the first Tudor king – will be familiar with Graham Turner's artwork. The paintings are informed by careful research in both the extant textual sources and

material remains (especially funerary monument and effigies from the period) and a deep understanding of the period, informed in part by the artist's own experiences as a reenactor and accomplished joustier.

This sumptuously produced A4 size hardback book brings together Turner's best-known work – both colour paintings and pencil sketches – with new artwork to illustrate the Wars of the Roses. The book is, however, much more than simply a collection of his artwork. It is also an accessible and very good account of the Wars themselves. The text is well written and chapter 4, on the armies and tactics of the period, is one of the best summaries of the available information available in print. Turner does well both to narrate the course of the Wars, but also, and more importantly, to explain the military and cultural context of the second half of the fifteenth century.

Still this book is first and foremost about the paintings and

Turner has done a magnificent job in bringing the period the life. Much of the artist's best known work, such as the painting of the Battle of Barnet that adorns the front cover, but also his paintings of Mortimer's Cross and Stoke, captures the desperate confusion of the melee. Other battle paintings, such as the well known picture of the Yorkist archers at Towton or Richard III's artillery at Bosworth, give a sense of the scale and narrative of the battles.

Other work is wonderfully individual, capturing moments in time with paintings that are rich in detail and emotion. The arrow wound suffered by Henry VI at St. Albans in 1455 or the newly published pencil sketch of Lord Clifford and the dead earl of Rutland at the Battle of Wakefield are two that really struck me

Some paintings capture moments of peaceful reflection or the aftermath of battle. For example, a new painting showing apprehensive Yorkist prisoners after Ludford Bridge as the duke of Buckingham rides past explores a moment not covered by contemporary chronicles and other accounts. Similarly, a painting of the execution of Lord Welles on the orders of Edward IV in 1470 is incredibly powerful, capturing the sense of spectacle that underpinned such stark demonstrations of royal authority.

Turner's artwork such as a portrayal of John, Lord Wenlock leaving his valuables with Abbot Selwood at Glastonbury in 1471, explore more mundane moments that are incidental to the story of the Wars of the Roses perhaps but integral to the lived experience of those involved

This is one of the best books published on the Wars of the Roses in recent years. It will prove an invaluable resource for amateur and academic historians alike, as well as wargamers, reenactors and anyone with a passing interest in this fascinating period of English history.

Osprey Publishing is to be congratulated too on presenting a beautiful book at an affordable price. It is a thing of beauty, as well as an important contribution to our understanding of the military history of the fifteenth century. Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy

Write a Book Review!

Do you have a non-fiction book of interest that you'd like to review in *TSC&HF*? Then please get in touch with the editor, Stuart A. Hessney, about requirements via e-mail at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com.

Coalition Armor vs Iraqi Forces

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Chris McNab

Illustrator: Adam Hook

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Duel 133

SBN: 978 1 47285 574 9

Price: £14.99/\$23 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Coalition Armor vs. Iraqi Forces: Iraq 2003-06 provides a detailed analysis of US, UK and other allied armies that launched the massive Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) invasion on 20 March 2003 aimed at toppling dictator Saddam Hussein. The assault by naval and ground forces was authorised after Iraq was found in breach of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441, which 'prohibits stockpiling and importing weapons of mass destruction.'

Iraq's armed forces were rapidly overwhelmed and Baghdad fell within five weeks after the OIF invasion began. The conventional war was followed by an insurgency as fighters inspired by al Qaeda came to Iraq to wage guerrilla warfare tactics against US forces, and circumstances fanned the flames of a civil war between the Islamic Sunni and Shia sects.

Saddam had led a repressive and deadly regime, but it

turned out that he was falsely accused of stockpiling weapons of mass destruction and having ties with al-Qaeda by US President George W. Bush's administration. The dictator was captured by US forces on 13 December 2003, put on trial the following June, found guilty of crimes against humanity and he was hanged on 30 December 2006.

Author Chris McNab analyses the opposing forces' main battle tanks, tactics and training, and overall battlefield awareness and effectiveness. This 80 page paperback provides extensive details about the features of the US M1A1 and M1A2 Abrams tanks, the British FV4034 Challenger 2, and variants of Iraq's Soviet designed T72 and T55 tanks. Saddam's forces also included Type 69-QM medium tanks made in the Republic of China and based on Soviet models.

Infantry fighting vehicles examined include the US Bradley M2/M3, the eight wheeled LAV-25, the British Warrior and FV107 Scimitar tracked vehicles, French Panhard AML armoured cars, and their counterparts in the Iraqi inventory.

Once the Iraqi armed forces were defeated, insurgents used rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against Coalition occupying forces, prompting changes in tactics and protective measures. I found the author's description of add-on armour kits to be interesting. The situation spurred an evolution of armour, training and tactics, but the future of manned vehicles in urban warfare continues to be analysed.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

Painting Wargaming Figures: World War II Allied Forces

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Andy Singleton

Published by: Pen & Sword Military

SBN 978-1-3900-562-3

Price: £16.99/\$28.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

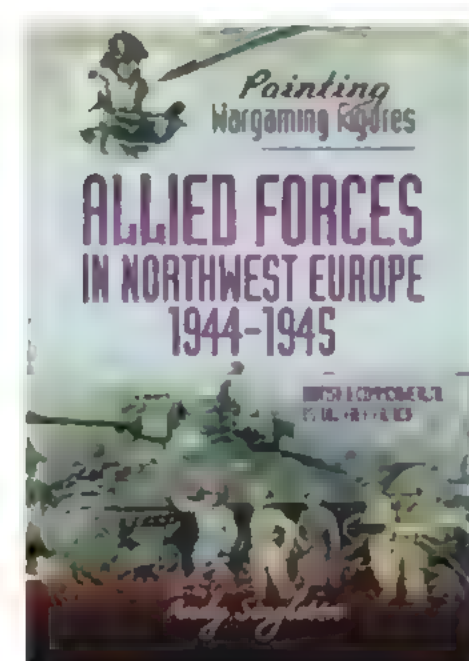
Author Andy Singleton shares both his expertise and enthusiasm as a hobbyist in *Painting Wargaming Figures: Allied Forces in Northwest Europe, 1944-45: British & Commonwealth, US and Free French*.

This 160 page paperback is richly illustrated by about 200 colour images as Singleton strives to arm anyone who is unfamiliar with historical figure modelling and wargaming with lots of good tips and relatively simple techniques. Basics covered include tools and materials commonly used.

The heart of this book is concise guides for painting World War II British, Canadian and other Commonwealth troops,

US soldiers and Free French forces. Information about the historical development of airborne and infantry uniforms provides insights into the author's how-to techniques. Particularly notably, painting different types of camouflage might seem daunting to the uninitiated, but no worries because Singleton shares relatively simple ways to apply various patterns with methods that are rather easy to repeat.

It's admirable how this book is designed and packed with guides that ally photos, text descriptions and tips such as what sort of paint and brush sizes to use in a concerted effort to make every step as simple to follow as possible. Our thanks to the UK publisher's (www.penandsword.co.uk) US distributor Casemate Publishers for supplying a review copy.



French Light Infantry 1784-1815

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Terry Crowdy

Published by: Helion & Company

ISBN: 978 1 914059 78 0

Price: £29.95/\$59.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Faced with well drilled Prussian and Austrian armies in Europe, France countered by unleashing mass skirmishing by *trailleurs* in 1792. This new form of warfare encouraged soldiers to make use of cover to advance quickly, fight in open order and fire on enemy forces to disrupt them before shock troops could muster momentum and charge forward bristling with bayonets.

Author Terry Crowdy details this new wrinkle in warfare in his book *French Light Infantry 1784-1815: From the Chasseurs of Louis XVI to Napoleon's Grande Armée*. It ranks as volume 16 in

the publisher's 'From Reason to Revolution 1721-1815' series.

King Louis XV's best light infantry was his professional *chasseurs*, but they were too few in number. After a patriotic call to arms was issued, they grew from twelve to 90 battalions in only a two-year span. By the time Emperor Napoleon I invaded Russia in 1812, his army included 185 battalions of light infantry with hundreds of *voltigeur* light companies attached to regular line infantry battalions.

This fully illustrated book draws on contemporary records to trace the reasons for organisational changes that led to the expansion of the light infantry arm and detail its tactics in depth.

Our thanks to the publisher's (www.helion.co.uk) US distributor Casemate Publishers for a review copy.



US Seventh Fleet, Vietnam 1964-75

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Edward J. Marolda

Illustrator: Adam Tooby

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Fleet 4

ISBN 978-1-47285-681-4

Price: £15.99/\$23 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Contemporary photographs, new maps and artwork by Adam Tooby enhance author Edward J. Marolda's new book *US Seventh Fleet, Vietnam 1964-75: American Naval Power in Southeast Asia*.

The Navy fleet operated in the south west Pacific under the overall command of General Douglas MacArthur during World War II. At the end of the war, it ferried US combat troops to Korea. The fleet moved its base of operations from China to the Philippines following the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

The Seventh Fleet operated off the shore of Vietnam during the French Indochina War. After Congress enacted 1964's joint Tonkin Gulf Resolution authorising President Lyndon B. Johnson to increase US military involvement in the Vietnam War, the stage was set for the Navy's most powerful fleet to be in continuous operation in the region for twenty years.

The author describes how 'underway replenishment' kept the fleet supplied at sea. He also notes how operational

accidents did more severe damage to some surface vessels than any enemy actions. I was surprised to learn about three significant aircraft carrier accidents in which seamen were injured and lives were lost. In other incidents, ships almost sank. Some vessels had to be withdrawn from the fleet for significant repairs.

The Seventh Fleet supported the US effort to help South Vietnam survive as an independent nation and it was utilised to interdict North Vietnam's military moves. It provided a surface fleet, an amphibious capability, submarines, air arms and intelligence gathering. Its aircraft supported US ground troops by bombing North Vietnam incessantly, including Hanoi, the chief harbour at Haiphong, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Laos and Cambodia. The Navy supported amphibious invasions and generally provided air and sea support to military efforts ashore.

Operation 'Rolling Thunder' was designed to bomb North Vietnam's infrastructure and military operations throughout the war. Unfortunately, it was not considered a success due to restrictions put on those operations because the Johnson administration was afraid of drawing the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union into direct confrontation with the USA.

It was interesting to read about how the fleet was directed during the Democratic Johnson presidency compared to his successor Republican Richard M. Nixon. The former prevented full utilization against the North due to fears of widening the conflict. The latter directed a more aggressive posture that got better results.

By 1972, the fleet was able to operate more effectively by mining the Haiphong harbour and staging successful bombing and interdiction operations. Those efforts helped impel North Vietnam to negotiate the Paris Peace Accords signed in 1973.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.



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Calendar of Events

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

June

Saturday, 1 June, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$5; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 257-2687 or (201) 342-6475 and on Facebook.

Saturday, 8 June, White Rose Figure World North, Galtres Centre Market Place, Easingwold YO61 3AE, United Kingdom. 10:00-17:00. Admission £5; children under age sixteen free. Info: White Rose Military Modelling Society page on Facebook

Saturday, 15 June, Ontario Model Soldier Society On Parade, New Venue Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke), Canada. Hours: 09:00-15:00. Admission \$10; children under age 12 free. Contact: Chairman Jim Qualtrough, tel: +1 (416) 543-0873; email: omss.bell.net or Website: www.omss.ca

July

Wednesday to Sunday, 17 - 21, Historicon, Lancaster County Convention Centre, 25 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA. Theme: 'From Hollywood to Historicon'. The Historical Miniature Gaming Society-sponsored event features tournaments, seminars, figure painting classes, contests and vendor sales. Website: www.hmgs.org

Sunday, 28 July, New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Sale, Wayne Police Athletic League (PAL), 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$6; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, or Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, (781) 321-8855

August

Friday to Sunday, 2-4 August, Eighth Annual W Britain Model Figures Symposium at the World War II American Experience Museum and Education Center, 845 Crooked Street Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania USA. Activities planned include a workshop on making either an American Civil War or World War II diorama on Friday, a slate of guest speakers and a dinner event on Saturday, and closeup looks at the museum's collection including a ride in a restored US M1A3 Abrams tank on Sunday. Rooms are available at a special event rate of \$149 US per night at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel. Contact: US tel: +1 (740) 702-1803, email winfo@wbritain.com or website: www.wbritain.com

Sunday, 25 August, Battleground at Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale, Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission: \$6; children under age twelve free. Promoted by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group, the event is aimed at commemorating the 160th anniversary of the American Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg and giving enthusiasts a chance to enjoy the toy soldier hobby. Contact: Steve Connell, US tel: +1 (734) 455-0724. Website: www.mwtoysoldier.com

September

Saturday, 7 September, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. Details and contacts same as above.

Sunday, 22 September, Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, Schaumburg Marriott, 50 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, Illinois, USA. 10:00 to 15:00. Preshow hotel room trading. Special room rate \$129. Contact: Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or email matt@hobbybunker.com.

October

Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 October, Fifteenth Anniversary Scale Model Challenge, NH Eindhoven Conference Centre 'Koningshof', Loch 117, 5504 RM Veldhoven (near Eindhoven), Netherlands. Hours: 10:00-17:00 each day. Admission: Day ticket €12 (children up to age fourteen €10), multi-day ticket €17 children (up to age fourteen €14), and children under age six free. Features an exhibition, competition, demonstrations and traders. Website: www.scalemodelchallenge.com

Friday and Saturday, 18-19 October, Chicago Show organised by the Military Miniature Society of Illinois, Schaumburg Marriott, 50 North Martingale Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois, USA. The event will feature exhibits, traders, an auction and seminars. Website: www.military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com.

Saturday, 19 October, Letchworth Scale Model Club Showcase, Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City SG6 1EF, UK. The event will feature club displays, painting demonstrations, wargames, competitions and trade stands. 10:00 to 16:00. Contact: email: ismcshowcase2023@gmail.com

November

Saturday and Sunday, 9-10 November, Scale ModelWorld, International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH. 10:00-18:00 Saturday and 10:00-16:00 Sunday (opening times one hour earlier for members). Plans include a competition, talks and demonstrations. More than 100 traders and as many as 170 club and special interest group displays are expected. Sponsored by the International Plastic Modellers Society UK. Free admission for IMPS members from around the world. Website: ipmsuk.org

December

Sunday, 1 December, Bugle Call, Nailsea School, 'The Link', Mizzymeard Road, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 2HN, United Kingdom. 10:00-16:30. Staged by the Bristol Area Branch of the British Model Soldier Society and Planet Figure, the event will feature open competitions, club displays, demonstrations, re-enactors and traders. Admission £5 for adults, £4 for OAP, £2 for children under age 12 and £9 for families. Contacts: traders: Bob Orr, email boborr@talktalk.net; clubs: Kevin Peart, email: slenderboy0247@gmail.com; Website: www.bmssbristol.org.uk

Saturday, 7 December, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. Details and contacts same as above

Saturday, 7 December, London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show, Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London NW3 2BQ, United Kingdom. Europe's No. 1 toy soldier show. Hours: 09:30 to 10:30 (early bird admission £10), 10:30 to 14:00 (£6) and 14:00 to 16:00 (£4); prepaid tickets £5 from 10:30; children under age sixteen free. Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411 or email stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk for information, trader reservations and tickets; Tom Foxon: UK tel: +44 (0)7540 153368 or email: tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk regarding general enquiries. Website: www.toysoldiershow.co.uk

Sunday, 8 December, London Plastic Modelling Show, Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London NW3 2BQ, United Kingdom. Hours: 10:00 to 16:00. Admission £6. Features traders, club displays and an annual open competition with classes reflecting all the modelling genres covered by Guideline Publications magazines and more. Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411 or email stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk for general enquires or to book trade tables or club stands; or Tom Foxon: UK tel: +44 (0)7540 153368 or email: tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk for sales and marketing. Website: www.londonplasticmodellingshow.co.uk

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

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Prize Exercise

Win US M10 Wolverine from First Legion

WIN

By Stuart A. Hessney

Thanks to the generosity of First Legion Ltd., this time *TSC&HF* readers have an exclusive chance to win a realistic model of a World War II US Army M10 tank destroyer to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day and the ensuing Normandy campaign against German forces.

Operation Overlord was the Allied codename for 1944's Battle of Normandy. It was waged from the D-Day amphibious and airborne landings on Tuesday 6 June to slogging through challenging bocage country combat in northern France, trapping the German 7th Army in the Falaise pocket by 19 August, and the Liberation of Paris on 25 August. The close of Operation Overlord was marked by German forces retreating east across the Seine River on 30 August.

The prize item is titled 'US M10 Wolverine Tank Destroyer with Removable Stowage' (ref. NOR099). First Legion spokesman Matthew Pavone noted the scale model recreates how the M10 mounted a 3in main gun and a .50 calibre Browning M2HB machine gun in a rotating, open-top turret on a modified M4 Sherman tank chassis with thin but sloped armour. The model has metal, resin and plastic elements. The turret swivels and the main gun can be raised or lowered. Lots of



Our readers have a chance to a World War II US M10 tank destroyer model courtesy of First Legion.

different gear is strapped to the turret and stowed at both the front and back of the hull.

This highly detailed model retails for \$450 US, but one very lucky reader can win one simply by sending in the correct answer to the following question:

In the World War II comedy drama heist *The Big Lebowski* (1998), who is the US soldier Big Joe?

A. Donald Sutherland

B. Clint Eastwood

C. Telly Savalas

D. Don Rickles

CONTACT

First Legion USA Inc.
27835 North 47th Street
Cave Creek, Arizona 85331
United States of America
US Tel: +1 (978) 925-5067
Website: www.firstlegionltd.com
Email: info@firstlegionltd.com

HOW TO WIN!

All entries must be submitted with your complete contact details, including a daytime telephone number. Entries should be emailed to *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney at a.stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. All entries must be received by 1 August 2024. Good luck!



The World War II US Army antitank team by W. Britain Model Figures.

CONTACT

W. Britain Model Figures
20 E. Water Street, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
United States of America
US Tel: +1 (740) 702-1803
UK Tel: +44 (0)8000 869123
Website: www.wbritain.com
Email: wbinfo@wbritain.com

Previous Winner Announced

Congratulations to the very lucky winner of the issue 115 prize competition featuring three 1/30-scale sets from W. Britain Model Figures for depicting World War II US Army artillerymen in action.

The centrepiece is a 'Holding the Line' (ref. 25146) set with a 3in M5 antitank gun and its four-man crew in wintertime action against German forces. Thanks to Company President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen and his team, the package also includes an 'Add-on Set' (ref. 25148) made up of soldier talking on a Type EE 8 field telephone, a gunner shouldering a round, and spare ammo similar to how the nineteen-piece 'Anti-Tank Gun Accessory Set' (ref. 25147) illustrates how M5 shells were usually shipped in water-resistant cardboard tubes packed in wooden crates.

This prize package has an aggregate retail value of \$554 US, but American reader Richard P. Lowe won it by correctly answering that it was US M47 Patton tanks that anachronistically stood in for German King Tiger tanks in the movie *Battle of the Bulge* (1965).

Congratulations to the very fortunate winner and thanks to all the other readers from around the world who submitted entries. Please keep on trying because you've got to be in it to win it!

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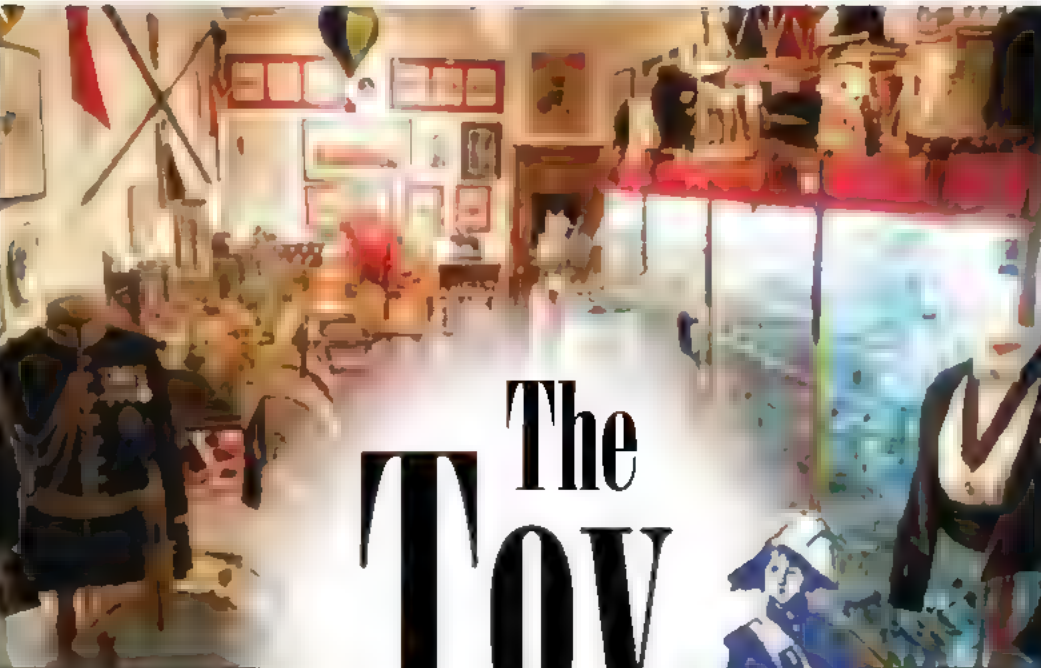
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West Coaster Show's New Home Is a Hit

Matthew Murphy covers the latest edition of California event for collectors.

Text: Matthew Murphy

Photos: Courtesy of Matthew Murphy

The 2024 West Coaster Toy Soldier Show was a success with more than 300 people in attendance on Sunday, 3 March, at its new venue in Pasadena, California.

We had more than 70 8ft tables and were virtually sold out compared to 100 6ft tables last year, so just a little smaller. I was a little worried about the change of venue from Garden Grove to about 40 miles north in Pasadena, but the new location was great and has lots of free parking.

Long-time collector and dealer S. Mark Young noted, "This year's show was held in one of the most venerable and well known buildings in Pasadena: the Elks Lodge. Built in 1911, the newly renovated Lodge with its vaulted ceilings and wooden floors was the perfect location for a show."

Mark added, "There was a great mix of old and new figures with a huge amount of trading going taking place. What was also very gratifying was the esprit de corps among both dealers and collectors."

Room Trading

The West Coaster has been staged in hotels in the past thereby making pre show room trading possible. This year I booked a block of rooms at the vintage Saga Motor Hotel located about three miles away along Historic Route 66 from the Elks Lodge. Twenty dealer rooms were open on the Saturday prior to the show.

I had a couple of good dinners and lots of laughs with Mike O'Donnell and Woody Lambirth, who ran the Los Angeles area show for several years before I took over. I had help on

Sunday from Joe Denoncour and Joe Remson from New Hampshire, Woody, Steven Chong and Tom Dubel. Without them I could not run the show.

Mark related, "Throughout the day, the buzz was very positive from everyone I talked to. Bob Walker, who has one of the largest soldier collections in the world, remarked to me that this was the best show he had ever attended, not only because of the treasures he found, but also due to the charm of the facility. I am already looking forward to next year." **END**



The West Coaster has found a new home at the historic Pasadena Elks Lodge.



Tables were piled high with stuff to tempt collectors.



Showtime at the new venue.

Plastic Union artillery set by W. Britain Model Figures.



ABOUT THE WRITER

Matthew Murphy is a toy soldier collector and the proprietor of the Boston-based Hobby Bunker shop (www.hobbybunker.com) in Wakefield, Massachusetts. He promotes the West Coaster, North East Toy Soldier Society and Chicagoland shows. In addition, Matt is the US agent for Guideline Publications, parent company of **TSC&HF** magazine.

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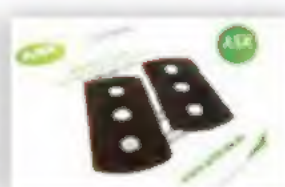
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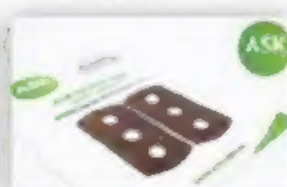
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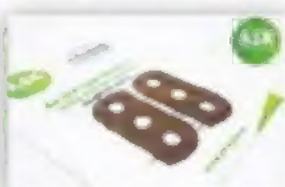
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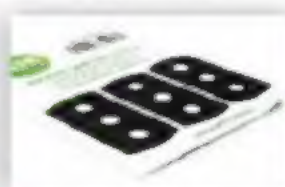
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Coming Next Time in Issue 118 of *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures*



QUIRKY TURKEY MODELS

Collector Colin Luxford shares a peek his 100mm resin character figures inspired by the history of Turkey and made there.



PRIVILEGED REGIMENTS

Joseph Reed explores the ceremonial traditions behind the City of London's privileged regiments. Shown here is the Grenadier Guards Corps of Drums.

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The Diamond T Tank
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DD388

DD383

DD382(SE)

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M4 SHERMAN,
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